WEDNESDAY
December 20, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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PLAN FOR POLLS
Kharge proposed as INDIA bloc's PM pick
NEWS » PAGE 13

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Focus turns to rescue and relief in flood-hit T.N.
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FOR FASTER CLEARANCE
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The deep import of the Article 370 verdict
What does it mean on the ground for J&K?
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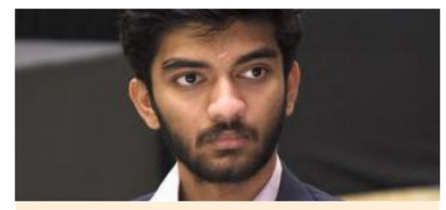


THE LEADER
Gukesh on top with second straight win
SPORT » PAGE 18

NEARBY

KIA is busiest airport in State

BENGALURU
While KIA was the busiest airport in Karnataka handling 31.91 million passengers during the financial year 2022-23, Bidar airport handled the least (10,140 passengers) in the same period. » PAGE 4

State to reduce burden of school bags by 50%

BENGALURU
The Karnataka government has taken steps to scientifically reduce the burden of school bags by cutting 50% of textbooks for students of classes I to X from academic year 2024-25. » PAGE 6

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 3

Suspensions continue as 49 more MPs face action

Only 44 of the 139 INDIA bloc MPs are left in the Lower House; Opposition says 'democracy is being mercilessly murdered'; House carried on with daily business and passed three Bills

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In an unprecedented move, 49 more Lok Sabha MPs were suspended for "unruly behaviour" on Tuesday, bringing the total number of Opposition lawmakers from both Houses who have been kept out during this session to 141.

Despite the suspensions and repeated adjournments, three Bills were passed, and three key criminal law reform Bills were taken up for consideration in the Lok Sabha.

After Tuesday's suspension, only 44 members belonging to the INDIA parties, which are opposing the BJP on a common platform, remain in the Lok Sabha. Congress leaders slammed the government's actions as a "murder" of democracy, comparing it to the North Korean regime.

Business as usual: Proceedings carried on in the half-empty Lok Sabha after the suspension of more Opposition members. ANI

In both Houses, Opposition MPs were protesting last week's security breach in Parliament, demanding a statement from Home Minister Amit Shah and a detailed discussion on the breach. BJP leaders were incensed that the protesters carried placards showing pictures of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Dhankar anguished

Though there were no suspensions in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday, the Upper House saw repeated adjournments. Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar also expressed anguish over being mocked by Trinamool Congress MP Kalyan Banerjee, and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi making a video of it.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

BJP's women MPs seek more time to discuss Bills

NEW DELHI
Women MPs from the BJP said they should be given enough time to speak on the three criminal law Bills — taken up for consideration on Tuesday — that give priority to tackling crimes against women and children. » PAGE 12

High court convicts Tamil Nadu Minister

Case history

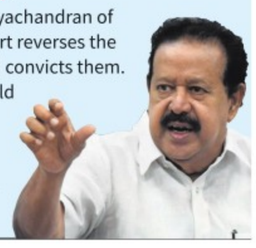
The High Court's decision comes 12 years after the FIR was first registered in the case in 2011

Sept. 26, 2011: DVAC registers FIR against K. Ponmudy, wife

April 18, 2016: A special court for Prevention of Corruption Act cases in Villupuram acquits both of them

Feb. 2, 2017: Madras High Court orders notices to the couple on an appeal preferred by the DVAC

Dec. 19, 2023: Justice G. Jayachandran of the High Court reverses the acquittal and convicts them. They were told to appear before the court on Thursday for sentencing



Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Higher Education Minister K. Ponmudy suffered a major jolt on Tuesday, with the Madras High Court convicting him and his wife, P. Visalakshi, in one of the multiple disproportionate assets cases faced by them.

The Minister now faces the threat of disqualification from membership of the Legislative Assembly with immediate effect, unless his conviction is stayed or set aside. His request for an appeal to the Supreme Court will be considered on Thursday.

'Palpably wrong'

Justice G. Jayachandran allowed an appeal preferred by the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) in February 2017.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

COVID-19: State to increase testing; 44 cases in 24 hours

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has decided to double down on COVID-19 testing and Whole Genome Sequencing of positive samples in the State, in light of a new subvariant JN.1 of the SARS-CoV-2 virus being found in neighbouring Kerala.

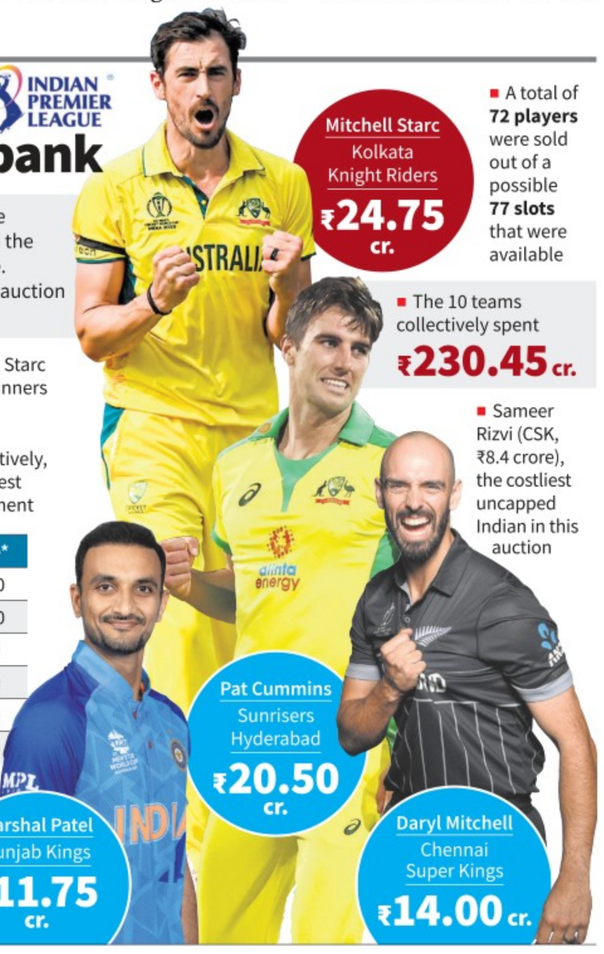
Only 722 COVID-19 tests were conducted in the State in the last 24 hours and 44 of them were positive, with a test positivity rate of 6.09%. The State now looks to increase the testing to an average of 5,000 a day.

Meanwhile, the advisory issued by the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Karnataka on Tuesday, advised everyone to wear masks in crowded spaces with low ventilation.

DETAILS ON » PAGE 2

Laughing their way to the bank

The 2024 Indian Premier League auction saw two players breach the ₹20 crore mark for the first time. A look at the top-10 buys in the auction held in Dubai on Tuesday



- A total of **72 players** were sold out of a possible **77 slots** that were available
- The 10 teams collectively spent **₹230.45 cr.**
- Australian fast bowlers Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins were the big winners when Kolkata Knight Riders and Sunrisers Hyderabad shelled out **₹24.75 cr.** and **₹20.50 cr.**, respectively, making them the two most costliest buys in the history of the tournament
- Sameer Rizvi (CSK, ₹8.4 crore), the costliest uncapped Indian in this auction
- India's Harshal Patel was the costliest Indian player, with Punjab Kings forking out **₹11.75 cr.** for the medium-pace all-rounder

Player	Team	Price*
Alzarri Joseph	RCB	11.50
Spencer Johnson	GT	10.00
Sameer Rizvi	CSK	8.40
Rilee Rossouw	PBKS	8.00
Shahrukh Khan	GT	7.40
Rovman Powell	RR	7.40

*ALL FIGURES IN CRORE

FULL REPORT ON PAGE 17

Expedite drought relief to State, CM urges PM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to give directions to hold a high-powered panel meeting to discuss drought and release relief to the State at the earliest. After his meeting on Tuesday with Mr. Modi in New Delhi, Mr. Siddaramaiah said the panel meeting was mandatory to decide on relief but it had not been held even after submitting a request three times to the Centre.

He has sought ₹18,177.44 crore to take up drought relief works in the State.

DETAILS ON » PAGE 6

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Host's last-minute withdrawal leaves historic Science Congress in the lurch

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

A month after announcing that it would host the 109th edition of the Indian Science Congress, the Jalandhar-based Lovely Professional University (LPU) has backed out, *The Hindu* has reliably learnt. This makes it unlikely that the annual three-day event – traditionally inaugurated by the Prime Minister and with a history stretching back to pre-Independent India – can be held as usual in the first week of January, according to functionaries associated with the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA), the Kolkata-based organiser of the Congress.

Lovely Professional University last hosted the Indian Science Congress in 2019. PTI

This comes after the Department of Science and Technology (DST) – which funds the Science Congress and pays for much of ISCA's budget – alleged that the decision to hold the event at LPU was one of several "unilateral" decisions taken by a "few members" of the ISCA.

"Unforeseen challenges have arisen, making it unfeasable [sic] for Lovely Professional [University] to fulfill its hosting responsibilities," said an e-mail dated December 17, sent from LPU registrar Monica Gulati to ISCA general president Arvind Saxena.

Mr. Saxena told *The Hindu* that he was sent the e-mail without warning and was "surprised" by the LPU's decision. "The programme schedules have been drawn, speakers invited... The last-minute withdrawal means that it is unlikely we can go ahead in January," he said.

Ironically, LPU's sudden withdrawal comes after it had, of its own accord, offered to host the event, after the original host chosen by the ISCA - the University of Lucknow - rescinded its offer. The LPU had previously hosted the Science Congress in 2019.

Once the only event of its kind, where India's preeminent scientists and technologists converged to discuss scientific updates, give public lectures, and interact with students, the Science Congress has had multiple trysts with controversy over the past decade.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

A prestigious tournament and the fascinatingly entangled web of fate

Gukesh, Arjun and top-seed Maghsoodloo — vying for victory in Chennai Grand Masters 2023 — are all seeking a spot in the upcoming Candidates 2024 to challenge the current world champion Liren

Arjun Erigaisi. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

D. Gukesh. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Ding Liren. AFP

Levon Aronian. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Mayank Chaudhary
CHENNAI

When the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT) unveiled its plan to host the prestigious Chennai Grand Masters chess tournament, anticipation rippled through the city, renowned for its rich history in the sport.

The star-studded line-up included World No. 12 Iran's Parham Maghsoodloo, Indian prodigies D. Gukesh and Arjun Erigaisi, and two-time World Cup winner Levon Aronian, among other elite Grandmasters with ratings above 2700.

This closed invitational event, puffing a substantial $60,000 prize pool, emerged as India's strongest tournament, attracting attention not just for its competitive intensity but also for its potential impact on the contenders' paths to the coveted Candidates tournament, the winner of which earns the right to challenge the reigning world champion.

However, whirrs of scepticism arose regarding the timing and fairness of the tournament's announcement just four days before its commencement.

The whole narrative takes a fascinating turn as the players – Gukesh, Arjun and top-seed Maghsoodloo – vying for victory in the Chennai Grand Masters 2023 are unwittingly entangled in the web of fate, all seeking a spot in the upcoming Candidates 2024 to challenge the current world champion, Ding Liren.

Ding's journey adds a layer of irony. Now, Ding, although the most deserving of all, would not have had the opportunity to participate in the Candidates in 2022 if not for 'bending the rules'.

Ding had missed all of the qualifying events – the World Cup, FIDE Grand Prix, and FIDE Grand Swiss – due to the COVID-19 pandemic and China's strict lockdown. He was also ineligible for the highest rating spot after FIDE decided not to grant a spot through rating for the first time since 2013.

However, FIDE's six-month ban on Russia's Sergey Karjakin opened the door for Ding, as the spot left vacant should be filled by the highest-rated player on the official ranking list in May 2022. To be eligible, though, a player needed at least 30 rated classical games under their belt between June 2021 and the end of April 2022.

Denied participation at first due to unprecedented circumstances, Ding seized a spot at the last minute after the Chinese Chess Association organised 26 classical games within a month to make Ding meet the eligibility criteria for the highest-rated player spot.

With his strength, historical records, and on-the-board performances in mind, it would be farcical to doubt his abilities and the path he had to take due to circumstantial reasons.

Ding not only secured his place in the Candidates but went on to claim the world championship, underscoring the unpredictable nature of chess and the lengths one may go to seize an opportunity.

International Master and former India player Saravanan V. opined about the same.

"FIDE has not made any rules stating that this is the number of tournaments required to qualify for a circuit slot and that only these many events should be held. They have not issued any notification to that effect... any number of tournaments that meet certain criteria are eligible for consideration for circuit points. So, I don't see anything wrong with that.

"If you made a rule that there is a circuit spot, but it comes only from this set of tournaments, say the Grand Chess Tour, then it would have been unfair, but they haven't made any rules, so there is nothing wrong with this tournament," he said

Saravanan further drew a parallel with the way China rushed games for Ding. He said, "Let's say this whole thing is unfair and you cannot find a spot to your player, then Ding Liren should not have been a world champion today. China did something atrocious to make him qualify for the candidates.

"To be very, very correct, FIDE should probably have notified that these are the number of tournaments. But in that case, also, we can always have permission to conduct a tournament, right?," he added.

FIDE, the international chess governing body, not only had no objections to the tournament being held but actively encouraged such events to increase competitiveness.

Speaking on behalf of FIDE, Viswanathan Anand, the organisation's Deputy President, said, "If people find out that they need to finish fifth in the tournament to qualify, they will focus on finishing fifth instead of focusing on finishing first, is that a violation? Yes, you are supposed to play for first place, but if a player is content with fifth place, he's contended fifth place. It's the same thing," explained the five-time world champion.

"Within the rules, if you organise a tournament....you do this and I'm very happy with this system. In fact, it produces more tournaments, that's good. So I don't see a problem with that at all, and I think it is one of the good things about the FIDE Circuit," he said.

Meanwhile, out of 16 players in the open and women's sections of Candidates 2024, three Indians have already qualified for the marquee event: Vidit Gujrathi, R. Praggnanandhaa, and R. Vaishali.

"I don't see anything wrong with this tournament," Vidit, who won the FIDE Grand Swiss to confirm his spot, said. It's fantastic that more and more tournaments are being organised ethically, providing more opportunities for players."

As the chess community grapples with questions about fairness and opportunity, the Chennai Grand Masters 2023 becomes a stage for the larger chess narrative, where moves are made not only on the board but also in the intricate dance between tradition, rules, and ambition.

Viswanathan Anand. DEBASISH BHADURI

THE GIST

- Denied participation at first due to unprecedented circumstances, Ding seized a spot at the last minute after the Chinese Chess Association organised 26 classical games within a month to make him meet the eligibility criteria
- Ding not only secured his place in the Candidates but went on to claim the World championship, underscoring the unpredictable nature of chess and the lengths one may go to seize an opportunity
- As the chess community grapples with questions about fairness and opportunity, the Chennai Grand Masters 2023 becomes a stage for the larger chess narrative

After four years out of Test cricket, Marsh back in a big way for Australia

Associated Press
MELBOURNE

Four years after being dropped as a Test player for Australia due to a run of poor results, allrounder Mitchell Marsh made a telling return to form with a run-a-ball century against England at Headingly during the Ashes series in July.

His resurgence as a batter – and bowler – continues.

In the first cricket Test against Pakistan in Perth, Marsh scored 90 and 63 not out to be named Man-of-the-Match in the home side's 360-run win inside four days. The 32-year-old Marsh also claimed the crucial wicket of former captain and star batter Babar Azam in the first innings to further highlight his overall value to the team.

Marsh was dropped by selectors in December 2018 after a run of 11 innings saw him score single figures seven times – including two ducks. His highest score during that streak was 45 runs.

Australia captain Pat Cummins says one key difference in the new-look Marsh is his willingness to play to his strengths, rather than try to imitate the batting style of others.

"I think he's just got a really clear process at the moment in whatever format it is," Cummins said. "He knows how to score runs, and you know he doesn't really care what it looks like.

Good game plan

"I think in the past you can get caught up in, 'There's a template of how you're meant to play test cricket or supposed to play test cricket and you've got to have a good forward defense'. I think Mitch has found a really good game plan." Australia has won 15 tests in a row against Pakistan in Australia, and Cummins and Co. will hope to extend that streak in the Boxing Day test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground beginning Dec. 26. It's the second of three in the series, with the third set to start Jan. 3 in Sydney.

Off-spin bowler Nathan Lyon will enter the MCG match having taken test wicket No. 500 during the win in Perth.

"He's a star. He's so good," Australia batter Marnus Labuschagne said of Lyon, who joined Shane Warne and Glenn McGrath as Australians with 500 test wickets.

Unteachable skill

"He's got a natural ability, very gifted ability of bowling a very good off-spin ball. The amount of revs he gets – it's almost impossible for anyone else to get that amount of revs... that skill alone is almost unteachable." Lyon reached the 500-wicket landmark when he successfully went for a leg before wicket referral against Faheem Ashraf and was embraced by his teammates. The off-spinner raised the ball to the applause of the Perth crowd.

Lyon then clean bowled Aamer Jamal in the same over off a delivery which bounced no higher than ankle height to finish with 2-18 in his memorable test match.

AP

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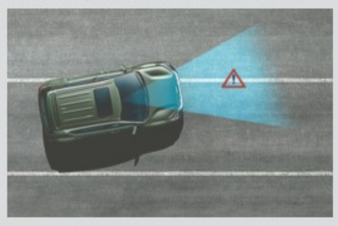

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INNOCEAN-081/23

J BG-BGE

State to increase COVID-19 testing to 5,000 a day; guidelines issued for genome sequencing

As many as 44 new cases reported in 24 hours, according to the Health Department bulletin. The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is scheduled to hold a meeting with all the States today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State has decided to increase testing and Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) of positive cases, as it gears up to navigate a possible COVID-19 upsurge again due to the JN.1 subvariant prevalent in the neighbouring State of Kerala.

"Presently, the number of COVID-19 tests being conducted in the State is very low. We have decided to increase testing to 5,000 a day," said D. Randeep, Commissioner of Health and Family Welfare.

Guidelines issued by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to all the States on Monday, recommended "ensuring adequate testing in all districts as per COVID-19 guidelines and maintaining RT PCR and RAT tests ratio". The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is scheduled to hold a meeting with all the State governments through a video conferencing on Wednesday morning. The State government has for one restarted the daily COVID-19 health bulletin on Tuesday, which showed 44 new COVID-19 cases were reported in the State in the last 24 hours. With 35 patients discharged in the last 24 hours, there are a total of 79 active cases in the State as of Tuesday, the bulletin said. Since the Department of Health and Family Welfare hasn't released data of cases reported during the previous few days, it is difficult to say whether there has been an uptick or not.

The Health Department has given instructions to all the district and taluk hospitals to take stock of the situation and be prepared. FILE PHOTO

However, the bulletin showed that the State has only conducted 722 tests – 487 RT PCR tests and 235 RAT tests – in the last 24 hours and 44 tested positive, with a high positivity rate of 6.09%.

In the active cases, 62 are in home isolation, 17 cases are admitted to hospital, while six people are in ICU and 11 are taking treatment in isolation beds, stated in the department bulletin.

Guidelines

The Karnataka Health and Family Welfare Department issued a circular and directed the district authorities to conduct Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) in cases such as symptomatic with international travel history, representative samples from clusters or focal outbreaks with severe morbidity or mortality. The Health Department has stated in the circular that the WGS should be done for seriously sick, hospitalised patients, SARI cases, prolonged hospital admission, cases of COVID-19 re-infection, infection of individuals who have been vaccinated with two doses and COVID-19 deaths.

Meanwhile, BIAL officials said no precautionary measures had been taken in the Bengaluru International airport.

Hospital preparedness

In another circular issued on Tuesday by the Health Department has given instructions to all the district and taluk hospitals to take stock of the situation and be prepared.

The department has directed district health officials to check the status of PSA plants, liquid medical oxygen plants, ICU ventilators, oxygen cylinders, oxygen concentrators, medical gas pipeline, and equipment in ICU.

COVID update

New cases: 44	Positivity rate
Total tests: 722	6.09%
RT-PCR: 487	
RAT: 235	

* In the last 24 hours

State govt. advisory

People aged 60 and above, those with comorbidities, pregnant women, lactating mothers, and those with respiratory symptoms like fever, cough, cold, and running nose must wear masks, and avoid closed and poorly ventilated spaces and crowded areas.

Symptomatic students advised not to attend classes in schools

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Umbrella organisation of private schools such as Associated Managements of English Medium Schools in Karnataka (KAMS) have announced precautionary measures in the light of new variant of COVID-19 being detected in Kerala. Among other things, they have advised screening of symptomatic students and recommending them to stay home. They said in the advisory that it is a routine practice in most schools that any child with viral or allergic cold/cough symptoms is not allowed to attend school and advised to get medical attention. The same is to be followed with extra care in the background of the alert on the new variant of virus.

Regular temperature checking, sanitising school premises and asking students with low immunity to wear masks are among the things suggested.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Shashikumar D., general secretary of KAMS said, "The State government has issued Covid-19 advisory and SOP. Therefore, it is our duty protect the schoolchildren."

KSRTC's new logistics business to start from December 23 with 20 trucks

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) is set to enter the logistics business by deploying 20 fully-equipped trucks with the aim of enhancing non-ticket revenue starting from December 23.

The KSRTC has received 20 trucks recently and all the trucks will be starting their service under the brand name 'Namma Cargo', Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy told *The Hindu*.

"Utilising KSRTC's robust network and assets, which encompass depots throughout Karnataka, the corporation is venturing into the logistics sector. In a pilot project, we are introducing 20 trucks with plans to further expand the fleet soon. We aim to achieve an annual revenue of ₹100 crore through our logistics operations," Mr. Reddy added. According to the Minister, the KSRTC purchased the trucks at a price of ₹17 lakh per vehicle.

These fully-equipped trucks, each with a six-tonne capacity, are intended to cater to diverse clusters, such as fruits, vegetables, textiles, and pharmaceuticals. In 2021, the KSRTC launched 'Namma Cargo' services, enabling State road transport corporations, excluding the BMTC, to transport parcels in buses as a revenue-generating initiative.

100 BMTC electric buses to start operation

Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has received 100 non-AC electric buses from Tata Motors, a commercial vehicle manufacturer, which are likely to be operational by December 26. Mr. Reddy said that these buses will be operational across various depots of the BMTC.

"The BMTC received 100 buses out of the 921 non-AC electric buses from Tata Motors recently at the Shanthinagar depot. The electric buses are leased under the FAME-2 scheme," Mr. Reddy added.

In August 2022, Tata Motors had won an order of 921 electric buses from BMTC. Under the tender by Convergence Energy Services Ltd. (CESL), Tata Motors will supply, operate, and maintain the 12-metre electric buses for a period of 12 years, as per the contract.

In July of this year, BMTC acquired the prototype of the 12-meter Tata non-AC electric bus, characterised by a low-floor design and seating for 25 passengers.

The bus was put into service on the 96-A route.

State govt. guidelines advise everyone to wear masks in crowded public spaces that are poorly ventilated

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government guidelines for feared COVID-19 surge issued on Tuesday, advise not only senior citizens, those with comorbidities, and those with COVID-like symptoms to wear masks in public places, but also advises everyone to wear masks in crowded public spaces with low ventilation. It also mandates masks in public spaces for pregnant women and lactating mothers.

"At crowded places, particularly, if not well-ventilated, wearing a mask is advised. When travelling overseas, stay vigilant and adopt relevant travel precautions, such as wearing masks at the airport and inside aircraft, and avoiding crowded areas with poor ventilation," the guidelines states. The advisory issued by Commissioner of Health and Family Welfare Services Randeep D. states: "All elderly (60 years and above), comorbid (particularly with kidney, heart, liver ailments, etc.), pregnant women and lactating mothers, when outdoor, shall wear face masks, and strictly avoid visiting closed, poorly ventilated spaces and crowded areas."

Those with respiratory symptoms like fever, cough, cold, and running nose shall seek medical consultation early, and, they should wear face masks (covering nose and mouth), and avoid visiting closed, poorly ventilated spaces, and crowded areas. The government advisory requests people to follow good personal hygiene, including frequent hand washing. "When unwell, stay at home, and minimise contact with other people, especially seniors and those who are vulnerable.

The Health Department said that given the current COVID-19 situation, the emergence of the JN.1 subvariant, ongoing winter conditions, and anticipated year-end and New Year festivities, the public is urged to follow precautionary measures recommended by the Covid-19 State Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the issue dated December 20, we have an explainer on how the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation has secured legal ownership of its trademarks, including the abbreviation KSRTC. Both Karnataka and Kerala SRTCs have been using the same abbreviation for many decades now and they now have no legal hurdle to continue to do so.

Rising cybercrimes, drug menace, traffic enforcement: 3 key challenges for city police

REWIND 2023

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Cybercrime, drug menace, and traffic enforcement remained the three big challenges for the Bengaluru city police in 2023. "We have initiated several measures and the use of technology is key to battling all the three key challenges," said Police Commissioner B. Dayananda.

This year saw the traffic police adopt innovative means to collect pending enforcement fines that had ballooned to nearly ₹500 crore. SUDHAKAR JAIN

The police have taken up a campaign with all schools and colleges in the city and have begun appointing student volunteers as police marshals, who will in turn create awareness about drug abuse, addiction, and its health and legal repercussions. FILE PHOTO

Exponential growth

The city, which registered over 9,000 cases of cybercrimes in all of 2022, as per the recently released data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), saw over 16,000 cases till the end of November in 2023. While the city police claim it reports the highest number of cybercrime cases due to it being the IT capital of the country, it doesn't seem to hold much water as Hyderabad, another IT hub reports the least number of cybercrime cases among all the metro cities in the country. City police also argue that reporting and registration of cases is best in the city, and many cases go unreported elsewhere.

The growing load of cyber crime cases in the city has been so huge that the city police started six dedicated Cybercrime, Economic Offences and Narcotics (CEN) police stations in recent years, in addition to the one station that was there for many years now. However, the load in 2023 became so huge that the dedicated CEN stations could not handle it any longer and Commissioner Mr. Dayananda had to ask all police stations in the city to start registering cybercrime cases. "There has been exponential growth in the number of cybercrime registration after we started registering cyber crimes in local police stations apart from CEN police stations. This shows how widespread cybercrimes are currently. We are also focusing on capacity building by training staff of local police stations in handling cybercrimes and are also providing the required tools and technologies," he said.

Campaign

"Drug menace has emerged as a multi-headed hydra and spreading its tentacles in the society at all levels. Easy availability and easy acceptability have made drugs fashionable with the younger generation. We have adopted a two-pronged approach – going after drug peddlers and disrupting the supply chain on the one hand and trying to create awareness among all sections of the society against drugs," said Mr. Dayananda.

The City Police have taken up a campaign with all schools and colleges in the city and have begun even appointing student volunteers as police marshals, who will in turn create awareness about drug abuse, addiction and its health and legal repercussions among their peers. There have been several instances where these volunteers have also helped police crack down on drug peddling on campuses.

50% rebate

This year saw Bengaluru City Traffic Police adopt innovative means to collect pending enforcement fines that had ballooned to nearly ₹500 crore. Lok Adalat provided two windows for vehicle owners to pay up pending fines with a 50% rebate. 2.92 lakh cases were settled and ₹9.24 crore was collected during July- September period.

As the enforcement of traffic norms went more online and through cameras, motorists adopted innovative ways to escape being caught. Many cases where the number plates were wrong, or partially hidden were uncovered this year. The BTP is yet to come up with an effective way to counter this.

Police in crime

Another disturbing trend that marked the year was that at least seven police officials from the city were booked for their involvement in various crimes.

In November, Odisha Police arrested a Jigani police personnel with 17.5 kg of ganja and in August, Kerala Police arrested four personnel from Whitefield CEN Police Station for allegedly extorting ₹3 lakh from an accused in a cybercrime case. A police constable was arrested for burglary after duty hours. In the latest case, last week of November, the inspector of Byatarayanapura police was booked for robbing a businessman of ₹75 lakh and in March earlier this year, a sub-inspector and two constables of Marathahalli Police were booked for extortion and illegal confinement. These cases have dented the image of the Bengaluru City Police.

THE HINDU IN SCHOOL PRESENTS SCHOOL BUZZ
A Newspaper exclusively curated for School Students

STUDENT BAGS GOLD IN SKATING

Anjana Anand, a class 7 student of Carmel High School, Basaveshwaranagar, won the gold medal in National-level Skating Competition in the Under-14 category conducted by Vidya Valley School, Pune, Maharashtra and Goa Regions. The school is proud of her achievement and wishes her the best for all her endeavours.

RISING STAR

Likhit Gowda R., a class 9 student of Carmel School, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru, emerged as a rising star in the field of sports. Likhit secured the gold medal in the 3000 meters race during the State-level competition organised by the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE). This paved the way for him to represent the state at the National Level Sports and Games CISCE 2023.

ANNUAL DAY CELEBRATION

Rashtriya Military School celebrated their 77th Annual Day. Brig. P I Abraham (Retd), graced the event as the chief guest. Lt. Col/ K Anup Nair, principal, presented the annual report, highlighting the achievements and progress of the institution. The prize distribution ceremony recognized the exceptional talent and dedication of the students, inspiring them to strive for even greater heights. The cultural programme showcased the diverse talents of the students. The chief guest shared his insights and motivated the students to strive for excellence by upholding the values of discipline and integrity and by honouring their institution's legacy.

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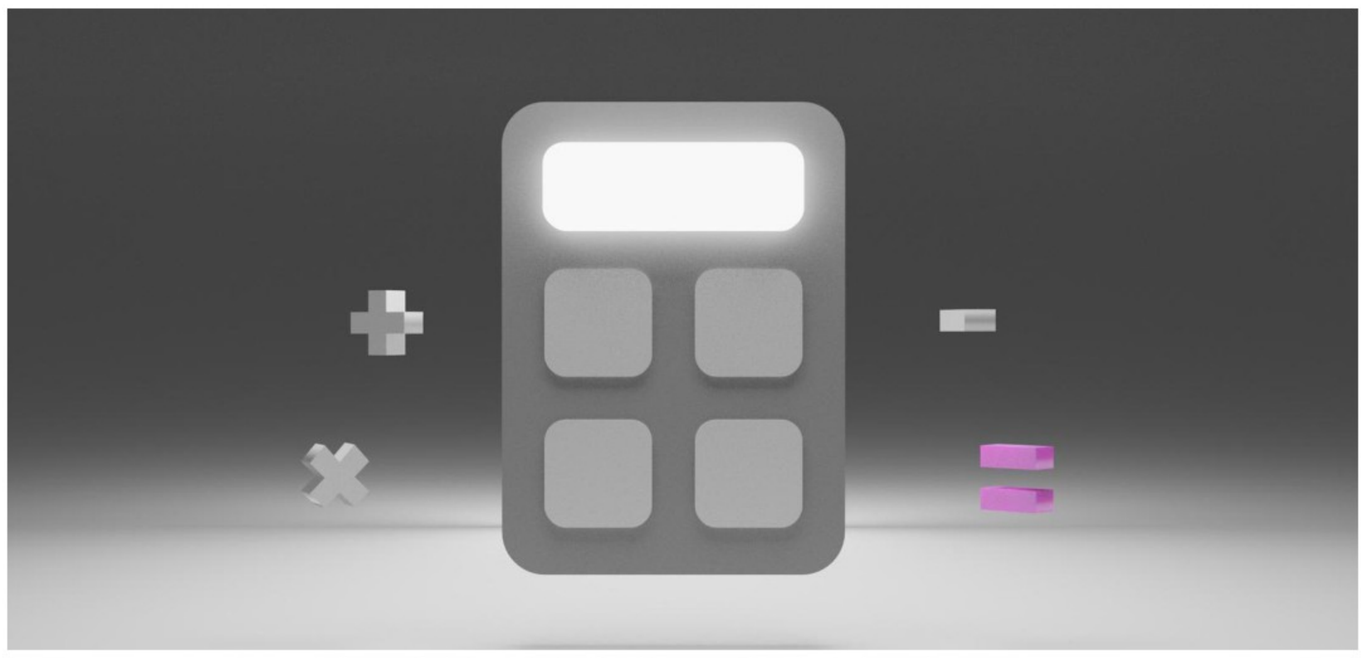
Measuring scientists' productivity with numbers undermines science

Numerical measures were originally developed to track research productivity. But today, they increasingly influence decisions related to hiring, funding, promotions, and awards. This is alarming because of fundamental concerns related to the effect of quantitative indicators on academic practice at large

Karishma Kaushik



Scientists have attempted to numerically quantify their peers' scientific achivements. These figures do not always reveal the truth. ROMAN SKRYPNYK/UNSPLASH

Scientists at Stanford University recently ranked the 'top' 2% of scientists in a variety of fields. The ranking contained an up-to-date list of the most highly cited scientists in these disciplines. That is, the list consists of the top 100,000 scientists based on an aggregate of numerical indicators, equal in this case to those scientists who have authored papers whose citation count lies in the top 2% in each field.

The presence of Indian scientists in this list has garnered substantial public attention. They have been accompanied by institutional press releases, news features, and award citations.

Given this fanfare, it's important that we understand what the top 2% ranking system actually measures and how well the measure correlates with real-world scientific achievement.

A combination of numbers

The 2% ranking system is based on standardised citation metrics across all scientific disciplines. In the scientific research setting, a citation is a reference to a piece of information, typically an already published entity like an article, book, or a paper in a journal. For a scientist, being cited means that some scientific publication that they have authored has served as a reference, basis or source for some parts of subsequent research in the field.

Using scientific publication data from the Scopus database of published papers, maintained by the publisher Elsevier, the 2% ranking system uses a composite citation index that is based on six citation indicators. These are: (i) the total number of citations for a paper, (ii) the total number of citation for a paper where the scientist is a single author (i.e. no co-authors), (iii) the total number of citations for papers where the scientist is a single *or* the first author, (iv) the total number of citations for papers where the scientist is a single, first *or* last author, (v) the number of papers for which the scientist has been cited at least the same number of times (*h*-index), and (vi) the number of citations per author for all the authors of a paper.

By combining the values of these indicators, the 2% ranking system assesses scientists' citation impact in a single calendar year as well as throughout their careers.

Change of character

This way, using different scientometric indicators, many scientists have attempted to numerically quantify their peers' scientific achievement. For example, the 'AD scientific index' measures the productivity coefficient of a scientist using the h-index, the i-10 index (number of publications with at least 10 citations), and other numbers; the 'h-frac index' tracks the fractional allocation of citations among co-authors; and the 'Author Contribution Scores' computes a continuous score that reflects a scientist's contributions relative to those of other authors over time. There are many others.

Numerical measures were originally developed to track research productivity. But they have since backfired and today increasingly influence decisions related to hiring, funding, promotions, awards, recognitions, and professional growth. This is alarming because of fundamental concerns related to using rankings and metrics as a perfect measure of scientific productivity and the effect of quantitative indicators on academic practice at large.

Numbers aren't everything

First, ranking systems and indices rely almost solely on quantitative data derived from citation profiles. They don't – can't – evaluate the quality or impact of some scientific work. For example, a scientist with 3,500 citations in biology could have accrued half of them from 'review' articles, which are articles that survey other published work instead of reporting original research. As a result, this person may rank among the top 2% of scientists by citations. On the other hand, a scientist with 600 citations all from original research will be out of the top 2%.

> The 2% ranking system is based on standardised citation metrics across all scientific disciplines

For another example, a biotechnologist with 700 citations from 28 papers published in 1971-2015 and a scientist with a similar number of citations from 33 papers published in 2004-2020 may both be in the top 2%. The latter's advantage is that the rapid growth of and electronic access to academic publishing has resulted in citation inflation over time.

Hidden incentives

Second, citation metrics don't allow us to extrapolate between fields or account for specific aspects of research in sub-fields. For example, in microbiology, the organism one is studying determines the timeline of a study. So a scientist working with, say, a bacterial species that's difficult to grow (like that of tuberculosis) would appear to be less productive than a scientist working with rapid turnaround technologies like computational modelling.

Third, the overvaluation of the numbers of publications and citations, the position of authorship (single, first or last), etc. breeds unethical scientific practices. That is, such a system incentivises scientists to inflate their citation count by citing themselves, paying others to cite their work, and competing for author positions. Correcting these indices by accounting for shared authorship also devalues some fundamental tenets of scientific work and undermines the idea that research may take time to have an impact.

'Extracurricular' pressures

Fourth, rankings and metrics restrict the definition of a 'top' scientist to someone who has simply been productive in research. This won't account for scientists' other responsibilities, such as teaching, mentoring, community service, administration, outreach, etc. In fact, quantifying scientific productivity based only on research citations could appear to penalise those who are engaged in some or all of these other activities which are equally important for science to benefit society.

Academic publishing houses and institutional ranking systems also take advantage of the impact that quantitative indicators have on scientists' career and recognition by using it to pressure scientists to 'publish or perish' and by promoting 'high impact-factor journals' that supposedly receive more citations. Scientific institutes also resort to quantitative indicators when evaluating scientists for hikes and promotion.

But beyond the complicated, oft-flawed systems developed to assess research productivity, the best way to evaluate scientists' work remains relatively simple: read the science.

(Karishma Kaushik is the Executive Director of IndiaBioscience.)

THE GIST

A scientist with 3,500 citations may have accrued half of them from 'review' articles, which survey other published work instead of reporting original research. So this person may rank among the top 2% of scientists by citations. On the other hand, a scientist with 600 citations from original research will be out of the top 2%

Citation metrics do not allow extrapolation between fields and fail to account for specific aspects of research in sub-fields. In microbiology, the organism being studied determines the timeline. A scientist working with something difficult to grow, like tuberculosis, would appear less productive than one working with rapid turnaround technologies like computational modelling

Overvaluation of numbers of publications and citations breeds unethical scientific practices. Such a system incentivises scientists to inflate citation count by citing themselves, paying others to cite their work, and competing for author positions

BIG SHOT

The densely packed globular cluster known as NGC 2210, in the Large Magellanic Cloud (LMC), in a composite image taken by the James Webb Telescope and released by NASA on December 8. The LMC is about 157,000 light-years from earth, and is a satellite galaxy of the Milky Way, meaning that the two galaxies are gravitationally bound. REUTERS

QUESTION CORNER

Q: How do animals see in the dark?

Gitanjali Mishra

A:Photoreception is activation of a biological process by light. Most organisms, including humans, respond to light. Some animals react to light waves not perceived by humans.

Vertebrates have two types of photosensitive cells, rods and cones, so called because of their shape. The rods, which are long and fat, contain large amounts of visual pigment and they mediate vision under dim illumination (scotopic vision). The cone cells, which are relatively small, mediate daylight vision (photopic vision) and colour sensation.

The retinas of animals active both day and night, as are those of humans, contain both rods and cones. In parts of the human retina, the rods and cones are intermingled and the nervous system provides a switching mechanism that permits adjustment for light conditions.

In nocturnal animals, the optical arrangement of the eyes suggests that resolution is sacrificed for high light-gathering power.

For example, in animals such as dogs, the lens is large, i.e. it has a short focal length. In diurnal animals, the lens is smaller and the front surface is flatter. Thus the focal length is longer and so the image on the retina is larger and dimmer than in the nocturnal eye. As a result, the resolution is higher.

The eyes of nocturnal animals are optimised for light gathering. GETTY IMAGES

The retinas of diurnal animals have localised areas with a high density of cone cells. (The eyes of most birds have two such areas.)

In nocturnal animals, the retina is mainly made up of rod cells. Rhodopsin, a photosensitive pigment present in rods, is decolourised by photons (light particles) and slowly regenerated in the dark. This ensures better vision for them in dim light.

(Berhampur University, Orissa, The Hindu)

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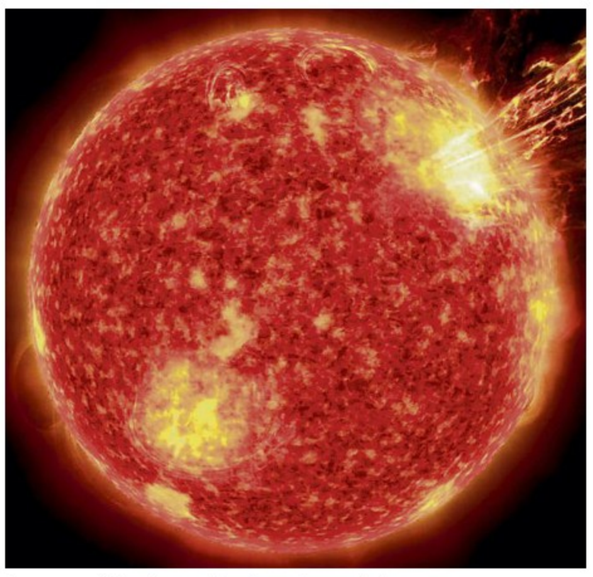
IIA scientists trace the source of solar burst which occurred in December 2013

The study asserts that simultaneous multiwavelength observations from various vantage points are vital in revealing the origin of CMEs from the sun

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Scientists from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) probing the evolution of a prominence eruption (PE) that occurred from the west-limb of the Sun in 2013 have traced the source of the solar burst.

Using ground-based optical and radio telescope data, as well as data from space-based satellites of NASA, scientists from IIA studied a unique PE that occurred on December 4, 2013. This could help in a better understanding of what makes space weather tick.


A representative image showing solar explosion.

"The sun often ejects plasma and magnetic fields in the form of coronal mass ejections (CMEs). These CMEs are typically associated with features on the solar disk known as filaments or prominences. The triggering mechanisms of these erupting features are of great scientific interest in determining the speed of the CME and its impact on space weather, and hence the potential harm they can cause to our satellites and communication networks when they hit the Earth," states the Department of Science and Technology.

> Generally, CMEs are accompanied by type II radio bursts due to shock-accelerated electrons, which are surprisingly not detected in this case.
> **SYED IBRAHIM,** co-author, a post-doc fellow at IIA

Prediction of the exact path of the CME through interplanetary space, and hence its effect on Earth (or geoeffectiveness), is not easy, and is a subject of intense research. Therefore, studying CMEs that were geoeffective as well as those that did not make it, are both essential to make progress.

This PE was associated with a slow CME that propagated a distance of only 40 times the radius of the Sun in the Sun's atmosphere, as well as a weak solar flare. It was found that the average acceleration of the prominence is quite small compared to strong flarse, which is why the associated CME was slower.

"Unlike the other cases of strong CMEs, an imbalance of the magnetic forces triggered this prominence eruption," said P. Vemareddy, the first author of the paper and a faculty member at the institute.

Type III bursts

In addition, this flare was also accompanied by a type of radio bursts called type III, which were recorded by the ground-based radio spectrograph from the Gauribidanur Low-frequency Solar Spectrograph (GLOSS). GLOSS is operated by IIA at the Gauribidanur Radio Observatory. "Generally, CMEs are accompanied by type II radio bursts due to shock-accelerated electrons, which are surprisingly not detected in this case," said Syed Ibrahim, a co-author and a post-doctoral fellow at IIA. The scientists found that this prominence was located in a region with weak magnetic polarities.

The study published in MNRAS asserts that simultaneous multiwavelength observations from different vantage points are very important to reveal the origin of CMEs from the sun.

"In particular, imaging observations close to the Sun are the key to determine the speed of the CME which the space payload Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) onboard the solar space observatory Aditya-L1 is going to provide soon," Mr Vemareddy said.

Christian community's role in education and healthcare hailed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that the Christian community's service in the field of education and health is commendable.

Inauguration

He was speaking after inaugurating the Linear Accelerator Radiation Therapy Service at Baptist Hospital in Bengaluru.

The therapy service is a state-of-the-art treatment method for cancer treatment. "Like a government hospital, Baptist Hospital is providing quality treatment to poor patients," said the Chief Minister.

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Leopard trapped on school campus in Mysuru

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

A leopard which had sauntered into the campus of Sri Ramakrishna Vidyashala in the city a few days ago was trapped and captured on Tuesday.

Following complaints from the school authorities of the leopard sighting on December 10, the Forest Department officials visited the spot to ascertain the veracity of the complaint. On confirming that there could be the possibility of the leopard lurking in the vicinity given the dense vegetation, a cage was placed on December 11 while another cage was placed within the campus on December 14. A combing operation was also conducted besides ensuring continuous monitoring of the campus.

Besides, camera traps were installed to capture its movements in case it ventured to the campus again. In the early hours of Tuesday and a little past midnight, the leopard made its appearance again in search of a prey but was trapped in the cage.

The leopard that was trapped on the Ramakrishna Vidyashala campus on Tuesday. M.A. SRIRAM

A cage was placed on December 11 on confirming that there could be the possibility of the leopard lurking in the vicinity given the dense vegetation

The Deputy Conservator of Forests Basavaraju said that the leopard was a male aged around 4 to 5 years. It has been shifted to the Chamundi Animal Conservation, Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre. It was being examined by the veterinarians and a decision on its release back into the wild be taken in due course, he added. This is the 21st leopard captured since April.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20
RISE 06:36 SET 17:58
RISE 12:46 SET 00:19

THURSDAY, DEC. 21
RISE 06:36 SET 17:59
RISE 13:26 SET 01:12

FRIDAY, DEC. 22
RISE 06:37 SET 17:59
RISE 14:08 SET 02:06

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	24
Mysuru	29	23
Bengaluru	24	19

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be slight cool. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C A mostly dry weather to prevail. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant.

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PM Modi interacts with hackathon team

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually interacted with students from NIT Tiruchirappalli at 'Smart India Hackathon 2023' on Tuesday. The team from NIT Tiruchirappalli was hosted by the National Institute of Engineering, Mysuru, which is one of the 48 nodal centres where the event is being held. The PM interacted with teams from five centres across India.

Mr. Modi was apprised of the problem of inefficiency in wagon utilisation and informed that the team was working on optimising rake utilisation and efficiency using artificial intelligence. The six-member team comprised three students from Bangladesh.

THE HINDU
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भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण, दक्षिणी क्षेत्र में विभिन्न पदों के लिए ऑनलाइन भर्ती विज्ञापन द.क्षेत्र/01/2023

भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण (भा.वि.प्रा.) द्वारा दक्षिणी राज्यों के उपरोक्त विभिन्न हवाईअड्डों पर निम्नलिखित पदों को भरने के लिए तमिलनाडु, आंध्र प्रदेश, तेलंगाना, कर्नाटक, केरल, पुदुच्चेरी और लक्षद्वीप के मूल निवासी पात्र उम्मीदवारों से आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं।

पद कोड	पद का नाम, ग्रेड और वेतनमान	अनारक्षित	आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर वर्ग	अन्य पिछड़ी जाति (नॉन-क्रीमी) लेयर	अनुसूचित जाति	अनुसूचित जन जाति	कुल	बेंचमार्क दिव्यांग लोग (शामिल)				भूतपूर्व कर्मचारी (शामिल)
								ए	बी	सी	डी & ई	
01	कनिष्ठ सहायक (अग्निशमन सेवा) एनई - 4 (रु. 31000 -3% - 92000)	40	6	18	2	7	73**	-	-	-		**
02	कनिष्ठ सहायक (कार्यालय) एनई-4 (रु. 31000 -3% - 92000)	1	-	1	-	-	2##	1	-	-	1	-
03	वरिष्ठ सहायक (इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स) एनई - 6 (रु. 36000 - 3%-110000)	13	2	4	4	2	25	-	-	-	-	3
04	वरिष्ठ सहायक (लेखा) एनई-6 (रु.36000 - 3% - 110000)	8	2	4	3	2	19$$	2	3	-	-	2

** विशेष भर्ती अभियान होने के कारण, केवल भूतपूर्व सैनिक (ईएसएम) उम्मीद्वार ही पद कोड 01 के लिए आवेदन के पात्र हैं।
विज्ञापन संख्या द.क्षेत्र/01/2022 की बैकलॉग रिक्ति $$ जिसमें विज्ञापन संख्या द.क्षेत्र /01/2022 के अंतर्गत दिव्यांग लोग भी बैकलॉग रिक्ति में शामिल है। कंप्यूटर आधारित परीक्षा के लिए प्रस्तावित केंद्र है : चेन्नई, मदुरै, बेलगावी, बेंगलुरु, कालीकट, कोचीन, हैदराबाद, विजयवाड़ा।
विस्तृत अधिसूचना एएआई वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध है। रिक्तियों की संख्या अस्थायी है, भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण (भा.वि.प्रा.) के पास भविष्य की आवश्यकताओं के आधार पर रिक्तियों को बढ़ाने या घटाने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है। बिना किसी कारणवश भा.वि.प्रा. के पास आवश्यकता पड़ने पर भर्ती प्रक्रिया को संशोधित/परिवर्तित/प्रतिबंधित/विस्तारित/रद्द करने का अधिकार भी सुरक्षित है। प्रबंधन का निर्णय अंतिम होगा और किसी भी अपील पर विचार नहीं किया जाएगा।
आवेदक निर्देशों को ध्यान से पढ़ने के बाद भा.वि.प्रा. की वेबसाइट https://www.aai.aero/en/careers/recruitment पर उपलब्ध लिंक के माध्यम से ऑनलाइन आवेदन कर सकते हैं। पद के लिए आवेदन करने से पहले, उम्मीद्वार को यह सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए कि वह पात्रता और अन्य मानदंडों को पूरा करता है। किसी अन्य माध्यम से कोई भी आवेदन स्वीकार नहीं किया जाएगा। आवेदन के संबंध में भा.वि.प्रा. को कोई दस्तावेज भेजने की आवश्यकता नहीं है। ऑनलाइन माध्यम के अलावा अन्य कोई आवेदन एवं शुल्क स्वीकार नहीं किया जाएगा। जो उम्मीद्वार कनिष्ठ सहायक (अग्निशमन सेवा) पद के लिए आवेदन करते हैं, उन्हें भा.वि.प्रा. वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध शारीरिक फिटनेस आवश्यकता के विवरण को पूरा करना होगा। आवेदन का ऑनलाइन पंजीकरण और शुल्क का भुगतान दिनांक 27/12/2023 से 26/01/2024 तक है।

क्षेत्रीय कार्यपालक निदेशक
दक्षिणी क्षेत्र, चेन्नई

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03	Senior Assistant (Electronics) (NE-6) Rs.36000 - 3% - 110000	13	2	4	4	2	25	-	-	-	-	3
04	Senior Assistant (Accts.) (NE 6)Rs.36000-3%-110000)	8	2	4	3	2	19$$	2	3	-	-	2

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of drugs found to be substandard in quality

2,921 Out of the 89,729 drug samples tested between April 2022 and March 2023, 422 were also identified as spurious, Minister of State for Health Bharati Pravin Pawar informed the Rajya Sabha. PTI

Number of widows for whom pension wasn't released in Delhi

36,361 Pension wasn't released for a few months due to insufficient budget in the Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme. Widows are entitled to a monthly amount of ₹2,500. PTI

The number of agri-startups to receive funds since 2019-20

1,524 Agriculture Ministry provided ₹106.25 crore to agri-startups, Minister Arjun Munda said. The Ministry implemented the "Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Development" programme to promote innovation. PTI

Worth of India's exports to the U.K. to be impacted

775 in $ million. Exports of products such as iron and steel, aluminium, fertilizer and cement may be impacted due to Britain's decision on December 18 to implement its Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) from 2027. PTI

Solar parks approved by government, till November 30

50 Solar parks with 37,490 MW capacity have been approved in 12 States, Minister of New and Renewable Energy R.K. Singh said. The government is implementing a scheme with a target capacity of 40 GW. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Dharavi revamp in turmoil

The Dharavi Redevelopment Project, an initiative to rebuild Asia's largest slum, has sparked heated controversies and political clashes, primarily due to allegations of favouritism towards the Adani Group, the winning bidder for the project; Opposition parties cite irregularities in tender processes, raising concerns about transparency

EXPLAINER

Abhinay Deshpande

The story so far:

On December 16, wielding flags and banners bearing slogans like "Remove Adani, Save Dharavi", thousands of protesters led by Opposition parties in Maharashtra marched towards billionaire Gautam Adani's Mumbai office to express their dissent against the ₹23,000 crore Dharavi Redevelopment Project.

Dharavi, Asia's largest slum cluster, and the third largest in the world, is home to nearly 58,000 families who migrated to India's financial capital from across the subcontinent over decades. It stands on a 300-hectare slice of prime land in the heart of the city overlooking the Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC), India's premium business district.

What is the Dharavi Redevelopment Project?

For almost two decades, the Maharashtra government has been struggling to find a 'perfect' bidder, who can take up the challenge of rebuilding a 'city within a city' by relocating all the slum-dwellers and their businesses till the redevelopment is finished.

In 1999, the BJP-Sena government first proposed to redevelop Dharavi. Later in 2004, the Congress government led by the late Vilasrao Deshmukh formed the Dharavi Redevelopment Authority under the Slum Redevelopment Authority (SRA) intending to make Mumbai, a slum-free city.

However, the project never got off the ground due to various reasons. According to SRA, 48.35% of Mumbai's population lives in slums which occupy about 24% of the city's area.

Over several years, global tenders were floated in 2007, 2009, 2011, 2016, 2018 and 2022. The number of applicants varied significantly, ranging from 101 in 2007 to none in some instances.

Finally, in November of last year, Adani Properties Private Limited successfully secured the 259-hectare redevelopment project through competitive bidding. The conglomerate quoted ₹5,069 crore for the project, while the DLF Group submitted a bid of ₹2,025 crore.

The redevelopment plan is an integrated development approach of the residential, commercial, and industrial with a floor space index of over 4.

What is the new controversy?

In November 2018, the State government under the leadership of the then Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis approved a new model for redeveloping the slum.

Although a Dubai-based consortium - Seclink Technologies Corporation - successfully bid against Adani in January 2019, the tender was not awarded due to the decision to incorporate 47.5 acres of Railway land into the redevelopment project.

In October 2020, the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government, led by Uddhav Thackeray, annulled the tender, citing plans to issue new tenders soon. The MVA government stated that one reason for cancelling the tender was the delay by the Centre in transferring the critical railway land necessary for the project.

After the Eknath Shinde government came to power, Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Deputy Chief Minister Mr. Fadnavis, on October 18 last, signed a 'definitive agreement' for handing over Railway land in Dadar for the project.

Protest wave: Shiv Sena (UBT) supporters duiring a huge rally against the Adani Group, protesting the Dharavi Development Project (DRP), in Mumbai on December 16. ANI

The Seclink Technologies Corporation launched a legal battle alleging the State government improperly cancelled an original 2018 tender for the slum redevelopment and favoured Adani Group in giving the new contract.

Even Mr. Thackeray and several Opposition leaders accused the government of giving undue favours to Adani Group in allotting and executing the slum overhaul contract.

In November, the Congress alleged that the BJP government is "benefitting" Adani Group by relaxing norms for the Dharavi redevelopment project with the party's general secretary (communication) Jairam Ramesh alleging that the Maharashtra Urban Development Department, which had originally expressed its reservations about relaxing the rules, "has been compelled to issue a notification that removes the provision of indexation in Dharavi's real estate Transferable Development Rights (TDR), and made it mandatory for all Mumbai builders to buy the first 40% of their TDRs from Adani".

What happened on December 16?

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Mr. Thackeray led a march with thousands of demonstrators from the slum to Mr. Adani's office alleging that the government is favouring the conglomerate and cited suspicious decisions, including TDR sale clause benefiting Adani Group significantly.

The decision to lead a march was announced on December 5.

Expressing concern over the future of the residents, the former Chief Minister said: "Enough information is available about the Dharavi redevelopment project which raises suspicion about whether the government is trying to benefit Adani at the cost of Dharavi residents."

Mr. Thackeray said that he is not against development and advocated his stance that he is not 'pro-builder', the reason for the downfall of his government in June last year.

"Now one can understand who financed the toppling of my government. With the Shiv Sena around, the BJP could not help its friends; so my party was broken and its symbol was stolen," he said while addressing the protesters. He alleged that the redevelopment project involves TDR irregularities worth over ₹100 crore.

He said that there is a need for fair treatment during redevelopment and the government should give 500 sq.ft houses for Dharavi residents, including police personnel, conservancy workers, and mill workers, and also a financial centre in the area. He also suggested that the redevelopment should be carried out by the government.

The government aimed to offer 300 sq.ft houses for free to residents with evidence of their slum structure's existence before January 1, 2000. For those who established residency in Dharavi between 2000 and 2011, the houses were made available at a designated price.

The Dharavi assembly constituency is represented by Mumbai Congress President Varsha Gaikwad.

What is BJP and Adani Group's stance?

Mumbai BJP president Ashish Shelar said the tender as well as TDR details of the project were finalised by the Thackeray government, which was in power between November 2019 and June 2022.

"The conditions of the tender for the development of Dharavi and the tender itself were both prepared when Mr. Thackeray was the Chief Minister," he said.

The official spokesperson of the project from Adani Group, too, claimed that the tender conditions were finalised during the tenure of the MVA government. "Conditions, including the obligations and incentives, which were known to all the bidders, have not been changed for the awardee post the tendering process. Hence, it is wrong to claim that any special benefits have been given to the awardee," they said in a statement.

"It is unfortunate that a concerted effort is being made to disseminate misinformation about certain aspects of the project. It is reiterated that all eligible tenement holders will be provided with a key-to-key solution, which means they will move into their new homes in Dharavi itself," the statement said.

As per the tender conditions, even ineligible tenement holders will be provided accommodation under the Rental Housing Policy. The tender provisions also ensure that eligible residential tenements will receive 17 % more area than other SRA projects in Mumbai. Further, the generation and usage of TDR are as per the tender conditions and fully compliant with the relevant laws.

"Moreover, the resettlement of Dharavikars is not affected by TDR," it said.

Also, the TDR from the project will be managed and monitored transparently through a specially created portal by the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) and the Maharashtra government. "The State government has entered into a 99-year lease agreement with the Indian Railways, and then it will be subleased on 30 years + 30 years basis like any other government land in Mumbai to the housing societies. There is no change in this policy for the Dharavi Redevelopment Project," it further said.

The spokesperson said that the project assumes added significance because many earlier attempts have failed to deliver. "It is against this backdrop that the Adani Group has taken up the challenge and the responsibility of transforming Dharavi with all the above facilities."

What is the current status of the project?

In September, the DRP and Adani Properties formed a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) called the Dharavi Redevelopment Project Pvt Ltd (DRPPL). The developer holds 80% equity in SPV and the State government will hold the remaining 20%.

The chairman/chairperson of the SPV will be appointed by the government, and the managing director will be appointed by the Adani Group. Both positions are still vacant.

Upon assuming responsibility, the team's initial objective will be to formulate the master plan for the redevelopment and conduct a survey. The deadline for submitting the master plan is set at 150 days. This plan will provide comprehensive information about the designated areas for rehabilitation buildings and free sale buildings, along with the positioning of public amenities such as schools, hospitals, gardens, and playgrounds.

The masterplan and survey reports will be submitted to the government which will take a final call.

When will the project be finished?

The Maharashtra government is highly optimistic about completing the entire process of rehabilitation and redevelopment in seven years starting next year. However, the developer stated that the period is 'insufficient' and sought at least 10-12 years for the entire process to be completed, a source said.

THE GIST

- Dharavi Redevelopment Project, a plan to redevelop Asia's largest slum, Dharavi, in Mumbai, was initiated almost two decades ago. Various attempts to find bidders for the project failed until Adani Properties won the bid in November last year.
- Changes in the tender process and allegations of favouritism towards the Adani Group sparked controversies.
- Allegations include irregularities in Dharavi's real estate Transferable Development Rights (TDR) clauses and suspicions regarding the project's real estate dealings.
- The BJP and the Adani Group claim that tender conditions were finalised during the previous government's tenure and no changes favouring Adani occurred post-bidding.
- The government aims for the rehabilitation and redevelopment process to conclude within seven years, while the developer suggests a longer duration of 10-12 years for completion.

KIA is busiest airport in State; Bidar handles the least number of passengers during FY 2022-23

Among the Karnataka airports, the Mangaluru International Airport was the second busiest as it handled 18.92 lakh passengers of whom 12.77 lakh were domestic and 5.31 lakh were international passengers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) was the busiest airport in Karnataka handling 31.91 million passengers during the financial year 2022-23, Bidar airport handled the least number of passengers (10,140) during the period.

Replying to a question at the Lok Sabha during the ongoing parliamentary session, Minister of State for Civil Aviation Gen. (Dr) V.K. Singh (Retd) stated that among the 129 airports in the country, KIA was ranked third in terms of handling passengers during 2022-23.

Kempegowda International Airport has secured the title of the 'Best Domestic Airport' in the 12th edition of the Travel + Leisure India's Best Awards 2023. FILE PHOTO

In top spots

The top spot was occupied by Delhi and Mumbai airports followed by KIA which handled 28.12 million domestic passengers and 3.78 million international passengers.

Among the State airports, the Mangaluru International Airport was the second busiest as it handled 18.92 lakh passengers of whom 12.77 lakh were domestic and 5.31 lakh were international passengers. Hubballi and Belagavi airports occupied the third and fourth spots catering to 3.22 lakh and 2.97 lakh passengers respectively. During 2022-23, Mysuru and Kalaburgi airports handled 1.88 lakh and 79,143 passengers respectively. Interestingly, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) airport handled 14,885 passengers of which 14,863 domestic and 22 international passengers.

The HAL airport stopped commercial flight operations in May 2008 after the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) located in Devanahalli was inaugurated. However, HAL airport is open for charter and VIP flight operations.

Best domestic airport

KIA has secured the title of the Best Domestic Airport at the 12th edition of the Travel + Leisure India's Best Awards 2023.

Hari Marar, MD & CEO of Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), said, "We are honoured to be recognised nationally as the best domestic airport in the country. At BLR Airport, we are dedicated to continually improving service standards. This award acknowledges the hard work of our entire airport community, and we are grateful to our growing and dedicated passengers for their vote of confidence and continued support."

Three arrested for stealing laptops

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Yeshwanthpur police arrested three persons who were stealing valuables from paying guest accommodations in north Bengaluru. The accused, Yuvara, 19, Prabhu, 25, and Selvaraj, 42, along with their accomplices, used to target PGs and keep a close watch on those who left the rooms for morning walks without locking the door.

The accused would gain entry and escape with laptops and mobile phones. Based on a series of theft cases, a special team of police was formed to crack the cases.

Electronics recovered

With their arrest, the police recovered 50 laptops and seven mobile phones. The accused are from Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, who are operating in the city, the police said. They had stolen 25 mobile phones from PGs in and around Yeshwanthpur police station alone.

The three persons have been remanded in judicial custody, and efforts are on to track down three more persons.

Two arrested for illegally running investment company

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Based on a tip-off, a team of officials from the Economic Offences Wing raided Pramya International

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) officials on Tuesday arrested two people who were operating an investment company illegally by luring people with the promise of huge returns for their investments. Based on a tip-off, a team of officials from the Economic Offences Wing raided Pramya International, situated in Konanakunte and arrested the accused.

A probe revealed that the accused had been operating the company for over one year, having over 700 investors with an approximate investment of ₹25 crore. The accused are suspected of having been running the business based on a Ponzi scheme offering huge returns. The accused had purchased several movable and immovable assets in their name using the investment money. They started avoiding the investors and planned to wind up the firm and escape, but they were caught before that. The police have seized cash of ₹7 lakh from them along with the documents for further investigation.

Two bike lifters arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Sheshadripuram police on Tuesday arrested two vehicle lifters and recovered as many as 20 two-wheelers worth ₹25 lakh from them.

Habitual offenders

The accused are habitual offenders involved in offences in and around Bengaluru, Chikkamagaluru, Mandya, Davanagere and Hassan districts.

The two were caught by police while they were moving suspiciously in the area on a bike without a number plate.

They were brought to the station, and a detailed questioning revealed the series of bike theft cases.

Security guard, family injured in gas leak incident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 30-year-old security guard was among the five people including two minor boys who were injured due to a fire accident caused by an LPG cylinder leakage in Garvebhavipalya in Begur on Tuesday.

The injured have been identified as Sandesh, critically injured while his wife Nikhila, 26, Roshini, 14, daughter, Roshan and Rohan, also sustained burn injuries and admitted to St. John's Hospital.

The family hailed from Nepal and was living in a rented house in Lakshmi Layout 7th cross. According to the police, the incident occurred on Tuesday morning when Sandesh got up and switched on the light which led to a fire explosion due to leakage in the cylinder. Other residents of the area woke up to the explosion and rushed to help. Due to the impact, the window panes shattered and the family members were also injured.

The Begur policeconducted a spot inspection. The cylinder was intact but the explosion was caused due to a suspected leakage in the hose pipe, a police officer said.

Employees' Provident Fund Organisation
(Ministry of Labour and Employment, Govt. of India)
Regional Office, Peenya, No.62, 3rd Cross, Industrial Suburb, Yeshwanthpura, II Stage, Bengaluru – 560022. Ph: 080 23571355/66 Email: ro.peenya@epfindia.gov.in

SPECIAL RECOVERY DRIVE EPFO, REGIONAL OFFICE, PEENYA

Employees' Provident Fund Organization(EPFO) has initiated a special recovery drive for collection of all statutory assessed dues.

This is a public notice calling upon all defaulted establishments under the jurisdiction of Regional Office, Peenya where dues have been assessed to come forward and deposit the assessed amount immediately. Failure to deposit the amount will invite strict action including attachment of bank accounts, movable and immovable property, arrest and imprisonment, filing of prosecution which involves imprisonment and fine and other actions as prescribed under the law.
This is also an appeal to public and the stakeholders including Bankers, Government Organisations to share the available information in respect of the above employers and establishment with EPFO, Regional Office at email id:ro.peenya@epfindia.gov.in/com.peenya@epfindia.gov.in or letters to the above mentioned address of Regional Office, Peenya
The following is the list of establishments which have pending dues of more than Rupees Five lakhs as on date.

Sl No.	Name of establishment M/s	Name of the employer	Amount in Rs.
1	J P Enterprises	N Jayaprakash, Proprietor	76,73,104.00
2	Harsha Enterprises	Rajeshwari K S, Proprietor	54,43,493.00
3	Aditya Designs pvt ltd.,	Peter, Managing Director, Catherine D Sheela, Director	54,10,085.00
4	Sambram Apparels	K S Manjunath, Proprietor	46,28,008.00
5	Speed Vall Industries	Jayakumar, Proprietor	42,13,707.00
6	Sree Enterprises	K Sumitra, Proprietress	35,95,620.00
7	Total Wardrobe Solutions	Govind Mirchandan, Executive Director	29,24,778.00
8	Garden View Impex pvt ltd.,	Manoj Goenka, Director, Mahesh Goenka, Director	26,47,680.00
9	Weigh Controls Systems pvt ltd.,	Samarjit Biswas, Director,	26,47,639.00
10	Scientific Associates	K Jeeva Raju, Proprietor	24,83,227.00
11	Electrix India Ltd.,	Achut V Hegde, Executive Director, Ajit V Hegde, Director	24,42,087.00
12	MEC Concepts India pvt ltd.,	A G Ramanujam, Director, Sudarshan M S, Director	24,23,522.00
13	Sarvaloka Services On Call Pvt ltd.,	Ganesh Krishnan, Director, Sanchit Gourav, Director, Benedict Jerome Mathias, Director, Vikram Vaidyanatha, Director	23,81,405.00
14	A Star Management Services	Ramachandra B R, Proprietor	22,25,279.00
15	Awesome Sportswear	M R Bhardwaj, Partner, Poonam Lakhani, Partner, Sanath Kumar, Partner	21,92,444.00
16	Milano Clothing	Anil Magaji, Proprietor	20,17,835.00
17	Guardwell Detective Services	Vishwanath Katti Chief Executive	19,99,242.00
18	Surya Security Services	Anand N Shetty, Proprietor, P H Patil Partner Leela V Katti Partner	18,49,000.00
19	Deepa Solars Systems pvt ltd.,	K L H Raya, Managing Director	13,09,509.00
20	United Electrotex pvt ltd.,	Peter, Managing Director	17,25,634.00
21	Pro Innovative Technologies pvt ltd.,	Dhiren M Shah, Managing Director, Roopa Shah, Director, Suresh Bhandari, Director, Dilip Manu Bhai Seth, Director	17,22,405.00
22	Mereena Creations	Varghese George, Partner, Shaoket Ali, Partner	17,14,238.00
23	Manasa Enterprises	S Ramesha, Proprietor	16,60,352.00
24	Transit M Power pvt ltd.,	Akbar Ali, Director , M P Ahmad Hassan, Director, Sayyed Habib Pasha, Director	15,66,796.00
25	B G K Hydraulics and Engingeering co.,	Suresh Katti, Partner, Sunay Katti, Partner	15,32,660.00
26	Sree Family Biznet pvt ltd.,	Sheshadri Ranganath Rao Sahib, Director, Lalitha Rao Sahib, Managing Director	14,52,458.00
27	Edutel Technologies pvt ltd.,	Surya K N, Director, Harsha K M, Director	13,87,051.00
28	Mars Security and allied services	K C Rajashekariah, Directors, M T Nagarathnamma, Directors	12,80,725.00
29	Sree Keerthi Enterprises	G C Chandrashekar, Proprietor	12,39,219.00
30	Mother's Education Trust	Sarala Secretary, S S Padmanathan, Chairman	12,35,867.00
31	Guardwell Detective Services	Vishwanath Katti Chief Executive	11,79,305.00
32	Pavan Man power and allied services	B H Narayan Swamy,Partner, Smt Usha Rani, Partner, B N Geeta, Partner, B N Dhanashekar Reddy, Partner	11,38,564.00
33	DNA Technology	Vanaja Narayan	10,97,751.00
34	Shree Ram & Sons	V Raghu, Managing Partner, B Sharad Kumar- Partner	10,97,714.00
35	Grow well CNC Systems	D T Venkatesh, Director	10,39,319.00
36	Awesome Apparels Pvt ltd.,	Sanath Kumar, Director , Poonam Lakhani, Director, Mohan Lakhani, Director	10,03,078.00
37	Span Global Pvt ltd.,		9,96,411.00
38	Saraswathi Industries	Sunil Harishchandra Pandarikar, Partner, Praveen Revachand Bablani, Partner, Sanchit H Shetty, Partner, Upendra Raghavendra Bhatt, Partner,	9,94,165.00
39	Kokila Engineering Works	Arun D, Proprietor	9,93,714.00
40	Asian Apparels	Narayana Shettigar, Partner, N Narasimha Murthy, Partner	9,93,528.00
41	Sunrise Technologies	C S Ramesh, Proprietor	9,45,682.00
42	Manjunatha Garden Consultants	Shivandas Ramachand, Proprietor	9,31,320.00
43	Universal Enterprises	Ravi Kumar G, Proprietor	9,14,439.00
44	Basava Academy of Engineering	Phalendra, Secretary	9,11,204.00
45	Outdoor clothing Div and personality ltd.	Sumir J Hinduja, Managing Director	9,04,845.00
46	Online Consultancy	Sriram Reddy, Proprietor	8,62,202.00
47	Triton Synthetic fibres	Neelesh Ganeriwala, Director, Bajranglal Bachavat, Director	8,15,301.00
48	Access Apparels Exports		8,03,139.00
49	Vandothra Fashions	K B Radhakrishnan, Director, Sathyavruthan, Director, Santosh Kumar, Director, Chandrabose, Director	7,95,994.00
50	Precision Gears and components	S G Hundekar, Managing Partner	7,66,310.00
51	JCR Drillsol Pvt ltd.,	Gayathri Reddy, Director, Jayachandra Reddy, Director	7,65,330.00
52	Twenty Technologies pvt ltd.,	Srinivasmurthy Raghu, Director	7,26,889.00
53	Smith and Hammer	B S Rajashekharan, Managing Director, P K Parimala, Director	7,11,826.00
54	Team work Apparels pvt ltd.,	Ravi Karthikeya, Director	6,61,277.00
55	Arvind Packaging	Raghu, Proprietor	6,58,504.00
56	Vacuum System Products	Veerabhadra Rao Gummadi	6,58,440.00
57	Guru Raghavendra Caterers	Katpadi Narayanrao Chandrashekar, Proprietor	6,53,063.00
58	P G Stationary pvt ltd.,	Pushpak Gopal Das, Director	6,44,269.00
59	Mysore Fruit Products ltd.,	D A Thejashwari , Director	6,41,605.00
60	Samm Technologies	Mahesh, Partner	6,34,488.00
61	Confident Protection and allied services	Nagesh Rao, Proprietor	7,25,692.00
62	Mayuri Family Restaurant	Ashok Reddy, Proprietor	6,11,646.00
63	King Escalators and elevators pvt ltd.,	Tharmaraj Thankanadar, Managing Director Smt Sujata S S, Director	6,11,385.00
64	Balaraju Enterprises	M Balaraju, Proprietor	6,07,448.00
65	SLV Apparels	Dinesh Kumar, Partner, B Raju, Partner	6,05,898.00
66	Aneena Creations	Varghese George, Partner, Shaoket Ali, Partner	5,93,188.00
67	Skanda Machine Tools pvt ltd.,	Kumar D R, Managing Director	5,79,516.00
68	Mayur Enterprises	Kantharaju B M, Director	5,73,303.00
69	Lotus Creations	Sherly Lukose	5,65,781.00
70	Crest CAM CNC Systems		5,65,644.00
71	Partha Detective & Security Services	Palitha H S Proprietor	5,65,307.00
72	Pacific pharmaceuticals pvt ltd.,	R Shetty, Partner , Yathindranath Shetty, Managing Director	5,29,734.00
73	Lakshmi Venkateshwara Garments	Sheela, Proprietress	5,21,569.00

Sd/-
RECOVERY OFFICER.,
RO, PEENYA.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 08 MYS 2023-24
Dated: 12-12-2023
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work.

Name of Work	Appx. Value
Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Proving out of 15 T EOT Crane **Tender no. L9236220A**	Rs. 54,70,001/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Up to 10:30 hrs. of 09.01.2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Materials Manager Mysuru
PUB/566/AAV/PRB/SWR/2023-24
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 10-SNT-MYS-2023
Dated: 14.12.2023
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following works:

SL	Name of Works	Approx. Value
1	Provision of Integrated Passenger Information System at Holenarsipur PF-1, Tarikere PF-1 & 2 and Chikjajur PF 1, 2 & 3 of Mysuru Division.	Rs. 2,23,11,532.19
2	Provision of Integrated Passenger Information System at Haveri PF-3, Byadgi-1 & 2 and Kabaka Puttur PF-1 of Mysuru division.	Rs. 2,12,35,680.19
3	Shifting of S&T cables in connection with the work of "construction of Tunnel for Railway Crossing at Km.155/300-400 between Haban Ghatta - Arsikere stations of Yettinahole Gravity Canal.	Rs. 23,67,670.10

Last date for submission of bids: **Up to 11:00 hrs. of 05.01.2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer Mysuru
PUB/570/AAV/PRB/SWR/2023-24
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform general public that, our client intends to purchase the vacant site No. 29 Measuring East to West: 30 Ft. North to South: 45 Feet herein after referred to as **schedule property** from its **owners Smt. Mallika C.Rao W/o. Late. Chandrakant Rao.**

My client is intended to purchase the schedule property from the above parties, therefore if any person/s or instructions have any valid and legal claim or interest in the schedule property, they are hereby called upon to file their objections in writing annexed documents for their claim/interest with the under signed within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

If valid legal objection/s are not filed by any person/s or intuitions, our client will proceed to complete the sale proceeds to purchase the schedule property from the above said owner deeming that, apart from the owner no other person or institution have no any claim over the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that part and parcel of the property vacant site No. 29 Measuring East to West: 30 Ft. North to South: 45 Feet, having BBMP Katha No: 1055/1046/17/3/29, situated at Shanthivana, Kodigehalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli and Taluk bounded on: East by: Property No.30, West by: Proeprty No. 28, North By: 30 Feet Road and South By: Mr. K. Narayanappa's Property.

T. Nagabhushana, Advocate
No. 17/2, 1st Floor, Next to Sterling Park Apartment Sahakaranagar, Bangalore-92
Cell: No. 9448667821
Email: tnbadvocate@gmail.com
Sri. Vishweswarappa K.V
Cell No: 9945089408

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client, Sree Sudhir Bindiganavile Premkumar, S/o Sri Premkumar Bindiganavile Srinivasa Murthy aged about 38 years residing at No 19/1, 10th Main, "Gangothri Nandini Manor", Banashankari Second Stage, Bangalore- 560 070, do hereby inform the general public that while shifting his residence from Laggere to Banashankari Second Stage, he has lost the original documents pertaining to his father's house bearing No: 109, L. G. Ramanna Layout, Laggere, Bangalore North, Peenya Small Industries, Bangalore North, Bangalore Viz. Allotment letter from The Malleswaram Tailoring Co-operative Society Limited, Mother Deed, Layout Plan, Receipts for having remitted amount in respect of the house property in his father's name. Now under the BBMP limits. In spite of his best efforts, he could not find the same and in this regard on 15-10-2023, he had lodged online complaint at Police Unit, Bangalore City Vide Report No 0767231/2023. If anybody finds the above said documents or is in possession, please return the same to the above address or contact on 9886513479 or contact at the below address within 10 days from this publication.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residential property bearing No.109, situated in Laggere) (L. G. Ramanna Layout) Yeshvantapura Hobli Bangalore North Taluk now under BBMP limits measuring East to West 47'feet and North to South 30'feet bounded on: doors and windows and bounded on the:

East by : 25 feet Road,
West by : Site No.122,
North by : Site No.110,
South by : Site No.108.

N.H. Anantha Narasimha Sastry
Advocate
No. 19, 10th Main, 27th Cross,
Banashankari Second Stage,
Bangalore – 560 0070
M: 9845657473 | 7996337260

E-Tender Notice

Date: 19.12.2023

Sports Authority of India, NSSC, Bangalore invites E-tender for following Work: -

1. SAI/NSSC/ENGG/NIT-9/2023-24 for Construction of Approach Road from Main Road to STP at SAI, NSSC, Bangalore

For more details please visit E-Tender website
http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app,
https://sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in/sai/,
https://saibengaluru.com/.
The Last date of Submission of E-Tender is 26.12.2023 up to 16.00 hrs.

Sd/-,
Executive Director

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its Owners: **(1)SRI.K.L.RAVIKUMAR** S/o late K.S.Lakshmi Narayana & Smt.K.L.Bhagyalakshmi, residing at No.9/2, 5th Main Road, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore; and **(2)Smt.SUNITHA S. PRAKASH** D/o late K.S.Lakshmi Narayana & Smt.K.L.Bhagyalakshmi, residing at No.8/5, 6th Cross, Guptha Layout, Sathyanarayana Temple Street, Halsuru, Bengaluru-560008; and **(3)Smt.BHARATHI.K.V** W/o late K.S.Venkatachalapathy and their children namely, **(4)Sri.VINAY.K.V & (5)Sri.VYBHAV.K.V,** residing at Flat No.202, Mahaveer Jewel apartment, 17th Cross, 15th Main, JP Nagar 5th Phase, Bengaluru-560078.

Apart from the said owners, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title and or interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for this sale transaction, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, **within 14 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Municipal No.9/2 PID No.60-155-9/2 and No.9/2-1, PID No.60-155-9/2-1, together measuring East to West 54'10" and North to South 21'1', with old buildings thereon, situated at 5th Main Road, IV Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore and bounded on:

East by : Private residential building on Site No.8
West by : Property No.7 belong to Mahaveera Ranka and others
North by : Private Property No.6
South by : 7'5" common passage and thereafter property of Padmaraj Ranka and 73'4" X 4' common passage leading to 30th Cross Road

Sd/- S.F. Goutam Chand
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004

Government of Maharashtra
Public Works Division, Parbhani
E-Tender Notice No.37 of 2023-2024

Online Tender (e-tenders) in B-1 for 05 works are invited by the Executive Engineer PW Division, Parbhani (Phone No 02452-222708) on Government of Maharashtra Electronic Tender Management system https:/maharashtra.etenders.in/ from registered contractors in appropriate class with Public Works Department of Maharashtra State

The details can be viewed and download online directly from the Government of Maharashtra e-tendering portal **https://mahatenders.gov.in** or **www.mahapwd.com**

(Note :- For Further changes in this Notice Please check above website)

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Public Works Division Parbhani

DGIPR/2023-2024/5809

BUILDING BLOCKS

Between 2007 and 2013, capacitive touchscreens overtook resistive touchscreens in the consumer electronics market. GETTY IMAGES

Revolutionising interfaces: the journey of touchscreens from concept to ubiquity

Ongoing advancements in touchscreen technology focus on enhancing interfaces for smaller devices like smartwatches, leveraging machine learning for improved data extraction, and integrating more sensors into smartphones, striving for more seamless human-machine interactions

Vasudevan Mukunth

The computing power of the smartphones in our pockets has often drawn comparisons to computing machines of the mid-20th century, which themselves were powerful for their time. Our access to such a powerful technology owes itself to advances in electronics, signalling, and fabrication – but its ultimate ubiquity owes itself to a human-machine interface that has become so intuitive as to make smartphones an extension of our arms: the touchscreen.

What is a touchscreen?

A touchscreen is a surface that combines two functions: to receive inputs for a computer (say, tapping on an app) and to display the output (launching the app). Aside from smartphones, touchscreens are also found today on ATM machines, various household appliances (including TVs and AC panels), e-readers, billing systems, and electronic voting machines.

By many accounts, the touchscreen was invented by an engineer named E.A. Johnson at the Royal Radar Establishment in Malvern, U.K., in 1965. In two papers he published in 1965 and 1967, Johnson set out the specifics of his invention – a capacitive device that could register being touched by a finger. In the 1967 paper, he wrote:

"The idea of the Touch Display was conceived at R.R.E. in an attempt to overcome the limitations in man-machine communications .... It was originally put forward in the context of an Air Traffic Control Data-processing System for which it has clear application, but it is felt that the arrangement has much wider application..."

The next major invention on this front was the resistive touchscreen in 1970, attributed to G. Samuel Hurst, then at the University of Kentucky. These two inventions, but the latter in particular, gave way to a stream of innovation. For example, in 1982, Nimish Mehta at the University of Toronto developed a touchscreen that could sense two touches at the same time (i.e. multitouch). In 1983, the American artist Myron Krueger reported a way to capture different hand gestures as actions on a screen. Bob Boie at Bell Labs built on Mehta's work to develop the first transparent (capacitive) multitouch interface in 1984.

While touchscreens also came to be adapted for computer terminals that non-experts could use to interact with the machine from the early 1970s, they started to become commonplace in everyday-use with a portable email-capable device that IBM and BellSouth launched in 1993, called Simon, followed by Apple's Newton, the Palm Pilot PDA, and other PDAs (short for personal digital assistants). In the early 2000s, engineers lead the way with wall-sized touchscreens that multiple people could interact with, even remotely; devices that could render 'normal' computers capable of sensing touch and gestures; early touchpads that used multitouch to bring finger movements into the virtual realm; plus various improvements to the way touchscreens worked.

Vis-à-vis consumer electronics, there were two big breakthroughs in 2007: the release of the LG Prada and the Apple iPhone, which were the first phones with touchscreens.

How do touchscreens work?

The two most common types of touchscreens are capacitive and resistive; there are other techniques as well. Of these, capacitive touchscreens are used in smartphones and other portable 'information appliances'.

Such a touchscreen consists of a surface with a grid of capacitors.

A capacitor is an electronic device that consists of two plates parallel to each other, with an air gap in between, and each plate connected to the circuit. The plates store electric charge.

When a finger touches the surface, an imperceptible amount of charge from a capacitor nearby flows through the wires into the finger, distorting the electric field at that point. Sensors located at the edges of the screen locate this distortion and relay it to a signal-processor to determine where the finger has touched. (This is why some touchscreens can't sense touch if the user is wearing gloves.)

A more involved scheme called the projected capacitive method is used in smartphones with the mutual capacitance architecture. Here, there are two conducting layers. Each layer consists of strips of conducting material: in one, the strips run left to right, and in the other from top to bottom. When two strips cross over each other, they form a capacitor, and the changes in its capacitance are used to measure where a finger has touched the screen. This scheme is amenable to detecting multiple simultaneous touches.

Instead of capacitors, a resistive touchscreen uses resistance. That is, there are two sheets, both conductors, separated by a small gap.

When a finger touches one sheet, it moves it at that point to touch the underlying sheet, allowing a current to pass there. Again, sensors pick up on this distortion from a grid of wires attached to one of the two sheets and, using a processor, determine the point of touch. Other touchscreen technologies are based on optical inputs and acoustic waves, among others.

Between 2007 and 2013, capacitive touchscreens overtook resistive touchscreens in the consumer electronics market.

Resistive touchscreens are cheaper to make and require less power to operate. But according to a review published in the journal *Sensors* in July 2021, capacitive touchscreens have better image clarity, sensitivity, and durability.

What next for touchscreens?

While touchscreen technology has advanced rapidly, innovation continues to this day, given the advent of smartwatches and their small screens; machine-learning approaches that can extract more and more information from noisy inputs; and the integration of more and more sensors into smartphones themselves.

Ultimately, what E.A. Johnson wanted was a way to ease "man-machine interactions", not a way to have haptic interactions with machines *per se*. In this sense, the machines around us virtually have a long way to go until, like in the *Iron Man* films, they're extensions of ourselves.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The Indo-Pakistani War of 1971 was a military confrontation between India and Pakistan that occurred during the Bangladesh Liberation War. Here is a quiz on the war of 1971

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1

The war began with an operation by the Pakistani Air Force that launched preemptive strikes on the forward airbases and radar installations of the Indian Air Force on the evening of December 3, 1971. What was the code name of this operation?

QUESTION 2

This was the guerrilla resistance movement consisting of the Bangladeshi military, paramilitary and civilians during the Bangladesh Liberation War. Name the movement.

QUESTION 3

Operation Trident was an offensive operation launched by the Indian Navy in Karachi during the war. This operation saw the first use of this missile in combat. Name the type of missile. To mark the victory of this operation, a day is observed on December 4. What is it?

QUESTION 4

On December 9, Pakistan sank an Indian warship, inflicting 194 Indian casualties, and this attack was the first submarine kill since World War II. Name the warship.

QUESTION 5

As a result of the war, East Pakistan became an independent country, Bangladesh. Who went on to become the first President of Bangladesh, later becoming the Prime Minister of Bangladesh in 1974?

Visual Question:

What is being signed in this image from December 1971? Identify the two signatories present.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

1. The Congress' demand for "complete independence", from its previous stance of "Dominion status" for India, was driven to an extent by the politics of this organisation. Name the organisation and its previous avatar. **Ans: Hindustan Socialist Republican Association**

2. One of the key members responsible for the reorganisation of the group (answer to question 1). **Ans: Bhagat Singh**

3. Three Indian revolutionaries were executed by the British for their role in the Kakori conspiracy. Name them. **Ans: Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqullah Khan, Roshan Singh**

4. Among others who pioneered the demand for complete independence, was this freedom fighter turned spiritualist, who during his stint as an Indian nationalist was responsible for the setting up of the Anushilan Samity. **Ans: Aurobindo Ghose**

5. The "Declaration of Independence" was officially promulgated on this day, by then INC president Jawaharlal Nehru. Name this day. How is the day commemorated today? **Ans: 26 January 1930. Today 26 January is Republic Day in India.**

Visual: Identify this person. **Ans: Bal Gangadhar Tilak**

Early Birds: Jyotsna Kaushik | Pradeep Kumar Nama | Vaishali Rana | Pratibha Lohiya | M. K. Sudhakar

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

M R. V. R. Moorthy, Kawadiar, Thiruvananthapuram wants to know whether the following sentence is correct: 'I am a girl, amn't I?'

The question tag should be 'aren't I?' and not 'amn't I?', 'Are' here is pronounced like the 'a' in 'part'. The r is silent. So it is 'aant I?'. 'Aren't' is used only in the first person in tag questions. You don't say 'I aren't going there today'.

I am a fool, aren't I?

I am a teacher, aren't I?

Mr. G. V. S. Prakasha Rao, K. Agraharam, Amalapuram, says that the word 'fantastic' has two different meanings: (a) pleasant, splendid, magnificent, very large (b) very strange and difficult to believe. He wants to know whether there are other words like this in English.

There are. The word 'fast' has several meanings. Of them, there are two which have diametrically opposite meanings. He runs fast means that he moves quickly. He stands fast means he is firmly fixed. The word 'clever' is used occasionally to mean 'not particularly reliable'; clever persons occasionally are 'good at planning things and dealing with situations and people, sometimes in a dishonest way, in order to gain an advantage or avoid any unpleasant results for themselves'. The word, 'sharp' has several meanings. He has a sharp mind means that he has an 'agile and sensitive' mind. In certain contexts, 'sharp' also means 'shrewd to the point of dishonest'. I don't want you to buy anything from him.

He is noted for his sharp practice.

Dr. M. Muralidhar, East Marredpalli, Secunderabad, wants to know the meaning of 'My foot'.

'My foot' is an informal expression that is used when you think that what is said by another is unbelievable.

'He says he can't come on Tuesday as he has a prior engagement'.

'Prior engagement, my foot! He just doesn't want to come. That's all'.

Ms. T. K. Shantha, DAV High School, Adambakkam, Madras, wants to know the meaning and pronunciation of 'etiquette'.

'Etiquette' means 'the formal rules of proper behaviour'. We are told from childhood how to behave in public. In western societies, it is not considered etiquette to belch in the presence of others. In India, it is cultivated as an art by some. Giving something to another with your left hand is not considered etiquette in India. But westerners don't think it is bad manners to give something to another with the left hand. Each profession has its own etiquette- Medical etiquette, court etiquette, etc. The word is pronounced 'etiket'. 'Ket' rhymes with 'bet'. The first e is pronounced, like the 'e' in 'bet' and the i like the 'i' in 'pin'. The stress is on the first syllable.

Ms. S. Ahmad, Civil Lines, Aligarh, wants to know the meaning of the idiom 'to go to one's head'.

It means 'to make one excited, conceited'.

He is his usual self. Power has not gone to his head.

Published in The Hindu on June 5, 1990

Word of the day

Clandestine:
Kept secret or done secretively

Synonyms: covert, hidden, illicit

Usage: *They had clandestine meetings for years.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/clandestinepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /klændestɪn/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Credentialise all documents like khata certificates, building plans with QR code for online e-verification, HC directs BBMP

Court also asks civic body to evolve a mechanism to allow citizens to store documents in digital repositories like DigiLocker so that they can avail of various services through e-verification

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has directed the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to credentialise all the documents, including khata certificates, sanctioned building plans, tax-paid receipts, etc., issued to the public by generating QR codes on such documents to enable the public and the BBMP to check their authenticity through online e-verification.

Also, the court asked the BBMP to evolve a mechanism to allow the citizens to store BBMP's documents in digital repositories like DigiLocker so that citizens can avail of various services from both government and private agencies through e-verification of such documents.

Credentialising all documents through e-verification will enable the public and the BBMP to check their authenticity. FILE PHOTO

Justice Suraj Govindaraj issued direction while allowing a petition filed by Sharmada B.K., a dentist and a resident of Banashankari First Stage. The court issued the direction on noticing that the BBMP itself had questioned the genuineness of a khata certificate of a property jointly owned by the petitioner since 2013 with her parents when she had in 2021 applied for changing the khata to her name based on the registered deed through which her parents gave up their rights on the property in her favour.

Not just that, the BBMP had also claimed that a couple had filed an objection for changing the khata in her name. However, the couple, D.N. Ramananda and his wife Geetha, residents of HSR Layout, in response to the court's notice, clarified that they had not filed any objection on the petitioner's application but it was BBMP on its own that had raised objection. However, the couple claimed that they had purchased the property in 1999 and khata is in their names.

A strange case

The court found it a strange case as the BBMP had not only claimed that it had no records of khata in its file as claimed by the petitioner but also alleged that the khata certificate produced by the petitioner was "fabricated and false" even though the digital data of self-assessment of property tax stood in the name of the petitioner and her parents.

On verification of the digital data on BBMP's website, the court found that property tax payment data displayed the names of the petitioner and her parents. The Court also noticed that the PID number on the property tax website does not match with the names of the couple, who claimed to have purchased property in 1999.

Not a stray case

Pointing out that it is not a stray case in which the genuineness of the khata certificate issued by the BBMP on a piece of paper is questioned, the court said that it is high time for the civic body to have a facility of credentialisation of documents through e-verification. The court also directed the BBMP Chief Commissioner to take appropriate action against the assistant revenue officer of Padmanabha Nagar sub-division for misleading the court on the khata details of the petitioner. While directing the BBMP to change the khata to the petitioner's name within 30 days, the Court gave liberty to the couple to litigate before the civil court on their grievance.

Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Sandal City: P.B No. 5531, Bengaluru - Pune Highway, Bangalore – 560055Ph: 080-22164879, 22164886,
Website: **www.mysoresandal.org** E-mail: **ksdl.dgmmtls@gmail.com**

An ISO-9001:2015 & 14001:2015 Company

Date : 18.12.2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender are invited by KS&DL in two cover system through e–procurement portal 2.0 **(Website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)** with respect to supply of following Goods/ Services/Works.

Sl. No.	Tender Number	Tender Name	Tender Quantity	Published date	last date of submission
1	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0074	Procurement of Mysore Sandal Soap 75g Corrugated Boxes	514583 Nos.	12-12-2023	16-01-2024
2	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0077	Procurement of Mysore Sandal Soap 75g GC Corrugated Boxes	341250 Nos.	12-12-2023	16-01-2024
3	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0078	Procurement of HSBOPP Film of Variant Size	142000 Kgs.	12-12-2023	20-01-2024
4	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0079	Procurement of Mysore Sandal Soap 75g Cartons	102905000 Nos.	12-12-2023	20-01-2024
5	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0080	Procurement of Mysore Sandal Soap 75g Glue End Cartons	68604000 Nos.	12-12-2023	20-01-2024
6	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0081	Procurement of Mysore Sandal Soap 125g Regular and Export Cartons	27800000 Nos.	12-12-2023	20-01-2024
7	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0082	Procurement of Mysore Sandal Soap 125g Corrugated Boxes	219000 Nos.	12-12-2023	16-01-2024
8	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0083	Procurement of Mysore Sandal Soap 150g (Trio)/Sandal Bath Tablet 150g (Trio) Corrugated Boxes	720000 Nos.	12-12-2023	20-01-2024
9	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0084	Procurement of Mysore Sandal Soap 150g (Trio)/Sandal Bath Tablet 150g (Trio) Cartons	21493000 Nos.	12-12-2023	20-01-2024
10	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0085	Procurement of Sandal Bath Tablet 150g (S), Rose Bath Tablet 150g (S), Lavender Bath Tablet 150g (S) and Jasmine Bath Tablet 150g (S) Cartons	18262000 Nos.	12-12-2023	20-01-2024
11	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0086	Procurement of Sandal Bath Tablet 150g (S), Rose Bath Tablet 150g (S), Lavender Bath Tablet 150g (S), Gold Bath Tablet 150g (S), Classic Bath Tablet 150g (S) and Jasmine Bath Tablet 150g (S) Corrugated Boxes	171000 Nos.	12-12-2023	16-01-2024
12	KSDL/2023-24/ SE0058	Annual maintenance contract for mechanized cleaning of water storage tanks, sumps, over head tanks and cooling tower etc.	Services	12-12-2023	28-12-2023
13	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0087	Procurement of Cellophane Paper Wrapper (Reams)	151000 Ream	13-12-2023	19-01-2024
14	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0088	Procurement of Bath Tablet (BT) Stickers	106000000 Nos.	13-12-2023	09-01-2024
15	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0089	Procurement of Mysore Sandal Soap 20g /SGT 20g Cartons	9378000 Nos.	13-12-2023	09-01-2024
16	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0090	Procurement of Mysore Sandal Soap 20g/SGT 20g Corrugated Boxes	19500 Nos.	13-12-2023	09-01-2024
17	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0091	Procurement of Mysore Sandal Soap 20g/SGT 20g Outer Shells	313000 Nos.	13-12-2023	09-01-2024
18	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0092	Procurement of SJR (Trio) Cartons	1173000 Nos.	13-12-2023	09-01-2024
19	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0093	Procurement of SJR Corrugated Box	39000 Nos.	13-12-2023	09-01-2024
20	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0094	Procurement of Gift Pack Cartons	39000 Nos.	13-12-2023	11-01-2024
21	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0095	Procurement of Gift Pack Corrugated Boxes	3200 Nos.	13-12-2023	09-01-2024
22	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0096	Procurement of Gift Pack Plastic Container with Lid	39000 Nos.	13-12-2023	09-01-2024
23	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0097	Procurement of Mysore Sandal Gold (125g x 3 Nos) Cartons	162000 Nos.	13-12-2023	09-01-2024
24	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0099	Procurement of Ambrettolide	2800 Kgs	13-12-2023	16-01-2024
25	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0100	Procurement of Tetramethyl perhydronaptho furan Ambroxan	550 Kgs	13-12-2023	16-01-2024
26	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0101	Procurement of Amyris oil	9800 Kgs	13-12-2023	16-01-2024
27	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0102	Procurement of Citronellol	19900 Kgs	13-12-2023	16-01-2024
28	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0103	Procurement of Clove Leaf Oil	33700 Kgs	13-12-2023	16-01-2024
29	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0104	Procurement of Coumarin crystals	21500 Kgs	13-12-2023	16-01-2024
30	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0105	Procurement of Geranium oil	6700 Kgs	13-12-2023	16-01-2024
31	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0106	Procurement of Guaiacwood oil	5800 Kgs	13-12-2023	16-01-2024
32	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0107	Procurement of Habanolide/Globalide	6100 Kgs	14-12-2023	16-01-2024
33	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0108	Procurement of Isobornyl Cyclo Hexanol (IBCH)	49000 Kgs	14-12-2023	18-01-2024
34	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0109	Procurement of Methyl Ionone Gamma	24300 Kgs	14-12-2023	18-01-2024
35	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0110	Procurement of Patchouli oil	13100 Kgs	14-12-2023	18-01-2024
36	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0111	Procurement of Petitgrain oil	8100 Kgs	14-12-2023	18-01-2024
37	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0112	Procurement of Sandal Mysore Core (SMC)	12700 Kgs	14-12-2023	18-01-2024
38	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0113	Procurement of Sandranol	104000 Kgs	14-12-2023	18-01-2024
39	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0114	Procurement of Super Santol	37200 Kgs	14-12-2023	18-01-2024
40	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0115	Procurement of Tonalid	36300 Kgs	14-12-2023	18-01-2024
41	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0116	Procurement of Diethyl Phthalate (DEP)	154700 Kgs	14-12-2023	18-01-2024
42	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0117	Procurement of Abbalide	33000 Kgs	14-12-2023	18-01-2024
43	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0118	Procurement of Siriganda Shuchisambhrama Carton	300000 Nos.	14-12-2023	27-12-2023
44	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0119	Procurement of Nirmala Shuchi Sambhrama Cartons	500000 Nos.	14-12-2023	27-12-2023
45	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0120	Procurement of Sirigandha Suchi Sambhrama Corrugated boxes	9400 Nos.	14-12-2023	27-12-2023
46	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0121	Procurement of Nirmala/Souharda Suchi Sambhrama Corrugated boxes	16500 Nos	14-12-2023	27-12-2023
47	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0071	Procurement of working chairs	50 Nos.	15-12-2023	30-12-2023
48	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0072	Supply, Fabrication, Installation and Commissioning of old steam pipes and its fittings in canteen, KS&DL, Bengaluru	Goods	15-12-2023	30-12-2023
49	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0073	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of utensils in canteen, KS&DL, Bengaluru	Goods	15-12-2023	30-12-2023
50	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0122	Procurement of EDTA Liquid	80 MT	16-12-2023	08-01-2024
51	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0123	Procurement of (Soda Ash Light)	290 MT	16-12-2023	08-01-2024
52	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0124	Procurement of Cos Oil Yellow 4G (D & C YELLOW No. 11) CI No. 47000	4845 Kgs	16-12-2023	03-01-2024
53	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0125	Procurement of Emulsifier	32 MT	16-12-2023	03-01-2024
54	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0126	Procurement of Almond oil	8125 Kgs	16-12-2023	03-01-2024
55	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0127	Procurement of Dolomite Powder - Rajasthan source	520 MT	16-12-2023	01-01-2024
56	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0128	Procurement of Dolomite Powder (Local)	520 MT	16-12-2023	03-01-2024
57	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0129	Procurement of ROSAMINE HL (CI. No. 45100)	53 Kgs	16-12-2023	03-01-2024
58	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0130	Procurement of Magnesium Sulphate	15 MT	16-12-2023	03-01-2024
59	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0131	Procurement of Kathon CG	4400 Kgs	16-12-2023	03-01-2024
60	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0132	Procurement of Sodium Etidronate (Aqua acid - 1054)	5960 Kgs	16-12-2023	03-01-2024
61	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0133	Procurement of LIQUID PARAFFIN LIGHT	6280 Kgs	16-12-2023	03-01-2024
62	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0134	Procurement of Hydrolized Milk Protein	195 Kgs	16-12-2023	03-01-2024
63	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0135	Procurement of Blue Colour Powder	1025 Kgs	16-12-2023	03-01-2024
64	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0136	Procurement of D&C Green-6 (CI No.61565)	162 Kgs	16-12-2023	03-01-2024
65	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0137	Procurement of Cos. Oil Toney Red (CI No. 26100)	357 Kgs	16-12-2023	03-01-2024
66	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0138	Procurement of Polyvinyl Pyrrilidone K-30 (PVP K-30)	195 Kgs	16-12-2023	03-01-2024
67	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0139	Procurement of Merquat Plus 3330	370 Kgs	16-12-2023	03-01-2024
68	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0140	Procurement of Flow wrap for Mysore Detergent Cake 150g	19000 Kgs	16-12-2023	29-01-2024
69	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0141	Procurement of PET Bottle for Kleenol 1000ml without Cap	1306000 Nos.	16-12-2023	29-01-2024
70	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0142	Procurement of PP Flip Top Cap (28mm) & HDPE Inner Plug (28mm) for Kleenol	3705000 Nos.	16-12-2023	29-01-2024
71	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0143	Procurement of Mysore Sandal Talc 50g Contatiner with Cap	3141000 Nos.	16-12-2023	29-01-2024
72	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0144	Procurement of Mysore Sandal Talc 100g Container with Cap	889000 Nos.	16-12-2023	29-01-2024
73	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0145	Procurement of Mysore Sandal Talc 300g Container with Cap	449000 Nos.	16-12-2023	29-01-2024
74	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0146	Procurement of Mysore Sandal Gold 125g(Regular and Expert)Cartons	23628000 Nos.	16-12-2023	25-01-2024
75	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0147	Procurement of Mysore Sandal Gold 125g Corrugated Boxes	234000 Nos.	16-12-2023	25-01-2024
76	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0148	Procurement of PET Bottles for Freshnol 1000ml without Cap	2388000 Nos.	16-12-2023	25-01-2024
77	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0149	Procurement of Freshnol 1000ml Corrugated Boxes with Partition and Top Plate	200000 Nos.	16-12-2023	25-01-2024
78	KSDL/2023-24/ IND0150	Procurement of Freshnol Labels	2388000 Nos.	18-12-2023	25-01-2024

For any queries contact the undersigned

Sd/- AGM (Materials)

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INBRIEF

Centre urged to release ₹675 cr. to build 19 Morarji Desai schools

Housing and Minorities Welfare Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan on Tuesday appealed to the Centre to release ₹675 crore towards the construction of 19 Morarji Desai residential schools and 50 post-matric hostels in Karnataka. According to a release, Mr. Khan met Union Minister for Minorities Welfare Smriti Irani on Tuesday and said there was demand for 19 Morarji Desai residential schools in Karnataka for which ₹475 crore was required. Similarly, ₹200 crore was needed for 50 post-matric hostels.

Courses launched by IN-SPACe in collaboration with ISRO

The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe), in collaboration with ISRO and leading academic institutions, announced a comprehensive short-term course focused on Orbital Mechanics, Attitude Dynamics and Control, Space-Based Navigation, and Mission Planning, with the idea of fostering skill development of industry and academia in the space sector. The course provides experience in various aspects of space technology, including mission planning, launch window optimisation, and dealing with mission constraints. The five-day programme commenced on Sunday at the ISRO Guest House in Bengaluru. Vinod Kumar, director, Promotion Directorate, IN-SPACe said: "The course contents are designed to train participants in developing the 'brain' of a satellite, that is, the on-board computer and other systems to enable the satellite to perform autonomously in space."

CM meets PM, seeks ₹18,177.44 crore drought aid and increase of job days to 150 days under MGNREGA

Fund for Upper Bhadra project, environment clearance for Mahadayi, and permit to begin Mekedatu project also sought

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi on Tuesday and placed five demands, including ₹18,177.44 crore as assistance for mitigating drought, before the Central government.

He appealed to Mr. Modi to direct a high-level committee headed by Home Minister Amit Shah to hold an emergency meeting and instruct release funds for undertaking drought relief in the State.

Karnataka has been facing a severe drought in 223 out of 236 taluks and farmers have been demanding compensation for the crop loss during the Kharif season owing to failure of the monsoon. The Chief Minister was accompanied by Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Four other demands

The four demands placed by Karnataka before the Centre are: increase in the number of days of employment from 100 days to 150 days per job card under the MGNREGA, release of funds for the Upper Bhadra project, environment clearance for the Mahadayi project, and grant of permission to commence work on the Mekedatu reservoir across the river Cauvery.

In a memorandum to Mr. Modi on the drought situation, the State sought input subsidy of ₹4,663.12 crore, gratuitous relief of ₹12,577.86 crore, ₹566.78 crore for drinking water, and ₹363.68 crore for animal husbandry intervention, totalling ₹18,177.44 crore.

Providing details on the extent of drought, Mr. Siddaramaiah said: "Around 48.19 lakh hectares of agriculture and horticulture crops have suffered losses ranging from 33% to 100%, with the majority of area reporting loss of more than 80%. Small and marginal farmers are most affected, as about 83% of the land under cultivation is covered by small and marginal farm holdings." He said the government has assessed the damage to the crops and sought an input subsidy of ₹4,663.12 crore from NDRF.

Defending the State's claim for input subsidy, Mr. Siddaramaiah said: "The land area under cultivation falling under small and marginal farm holdings (SMF) is important to determine the input subsidy payable to the State. Karnataka has a robust digital database of farmers under the system called FRUITS (Farmer Registration & Unified Beneficiary Identification System), which is Aadhaar-enabled and reliable. PMKISAN is using FRUITS identification numbers for making DBT payment in Karnataka. Our request is to consider the area under SMF holdings as per the Aadhaar-enabled FRUITS digital database."

The Chief Minister said the Centre might follow the Agriculture Census of 2015-16, which indicated that 43.94% of land area in Karnataka is covered by SMF holdings. However, as per the FRUITS database of Karnataka, 83% of land is covered by holdings which are small and marginal. He, therefore, requested the Prime Minister to direct the high-level committee to consider the number of and area under SMF holdings as per the FRUITS database of Karnataka.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said the average size of operational holding in Karnataka has decreased from 3.2 Ha in 1970-71 to 1.35 Ha in 2015-16. The average size would have further decreased in the last eight years since 2015-16. Therefore, relying on 2015-16 data would cause great injustice to Karnataka. He said: "It is nearly three months since we submitted our first memorandum and two months since the Central team made its field visits. The farmers of Karnataka are in deep distress. Since crops have failed, it is necessary that we pay the input subsidy to the farmers soon so as to alleviate their hardship and suffering."

Mr. Siddaramaiah also discussed pending irrigation projects in the State and urged the Centre to provide environment clearance for the implementation of the Mahadayi Kalasa Banduri Nala Project.

Speaking to reporters in Delhi, the Chief Minister said the Centre had declared ₹5,300 crore for the Upper Bhadra project in the Union Budget. But not a single rupee has been released so far. He urged Mr. Modi to release funds.

On the Mekedatu project, the CM said the Prime Minister's attention has been drawn towards the project. "The lower riparian Tamil Nadu is opposing the project for its political gains. The project aims to cater the drinking water needs of Bengaluru and surrounding areas of the city". The water would be released to Tamil Nadu after generation of 400 MW of power at the dam site.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said the government is ready to take an all-party delegation to the Centre to seek early clearance and funds for Mahadayi, Upper Bhadra, and Mekedatu projects.

Belagavi stripping case: Victim's family given land, cash compensation

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The family of the victim of the Belagavi assault and stripping incident was handed over a cheque ₹5 lakh and documents granting 2.03 acres of land, at the Deputy Commissioner's office.

The land was granted by the Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribe Development Corporation under the land grant scheme.

Speaking after handing over documents, Satish Jarkiholi, PWD Minister and district in charge Minister, alleged that the BJP was trying to politicise the incident where the woman was partially stripped and assaulted.

"The demand by some BJP leaders that Home Minister G. Parameshwara should resign on moral grounds is meaningless. Senior leaders, including Mr. Parameshwara and Women and Child Development Minister Lakshmi Hebbalkar visited the victim and her family members and extended support. In fact, none of the BJP leaders, including the two MPs, visited the village or the family," the Minister said.

"What happened in Vantamuri is very unfortunate. We should strive to ensure that such incidents do not recur. But the BJP is trying to gain political benefit from the incident. There have been similar incidents in various other parts of the country, including some BJP-ruled States. But the party does not highlight them," he said.

He said that even before the CID officers took over the investigation, the local police had acted swiftly and arrested 11 of the 13 accused.

State to reduce burden of school bags by 50%

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has taken steps to scientifically reduce the burden of school bags by cutting 50% of textbooks for students of classes I to X from the academic year 2024-25.

Instead of providing textbooks once for the entire year, it has decided to give two books per year, divided into two parts, (Summative Assessment) SA-1 and SA-2. The State government has issued an official order in this regard.

In 2019, a committee comprising education experts, paediatricians, doctors, legal advisers, and DSERT officials conducted a study to reduce the weight of school bags. FILE PHOTO

In 2019, a committee comprising education experts, paediatricians, doctors, legal advisers, and officials of the Department of State Education Research and Training (DSERT) conducted a study to reduce school bag burden.

They concluded that the weight of school bags for students of class I to II could be in the range of 1.5 to 2 kg. For classes III to V, the proposed range was 2 to 3 kg, for class VI to VIII, the proposed range was 3 to 4 kg, and for class IX and X, the recommendation was 4 to 5 kg. However, this order was implemented only in government schools. Complaints about private schools not following this rule persist.

This issue was discussed in a meeting led by the Commissioner of the Department of School Education on October 6, 2023. A committee was formed under the chairmanship of Director, the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board. The committee recommended cutting 50% of the textbook size, and submitted its report to the government on October 12, 2023.

Since it is not textbooks that add to bag size, the committee also recommended checking the weight of a school bag of each child at the school level.

Every school should ensure that only subject textbooks and notebooks are carried in the school bag. Necessary steps should be taken to have a rough notebook containing all the other matters.

Financial implication

In the academic year 2023-24, the Karnataka Textbooks Society (KTBS) printed a total of 566 titles, and 6,39,83,899 textbooks in all at a cost of ₹323,31,93,175.

According to the recommendation, the textbooks for SA-1 and SA-2 will be printed separately. Therefore, KTBS expects to print 636 titles with 318 additional titles. Printing of these additional titles will cost around ₹8,45,72,950.

Patil meets industry heads in Mumbai

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A high-level delegation from Karnataka led by Minister for Large and Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development M.B. Patil on Tuesday held a series of discussions with the leaders of industry at Mumbai.

The Minister invited leaders of some of India's biggest conglomerates - Tata Group, Mahindra Group, JSW, RPG Group - to invest in Karnataka, according to a release.

"In the course of his productive discussions with the champions of Indian industry, Mr. Patil called on them to consider further investment in the State. He also assured them of the government's complete support and cooperation in their future ventures in Karnataka," the release said.

The delegation held discussions with Natarajan Chandrasekaran, chairman of Tata Sons, besides heads of various businesses under the umbrella of the Tata Group, and Sajjan Jindal, chairman and MD of JSW Steel, along with heads of other businesses of JSW Group. The Minister-led delegation also met with several Heads of the Mahindra Group.

Upper Bhadra project: Delay in getting forest clearance slows down work

Sathish G.T.
SHIVAMOGGA

The work of the Upper Bhadra Project to irrigate drought-prone parts of Chikkamagaluru, Chitradurga, Tumakuru, and Davangere districts has been delayed in Chikkamagaluru district owing to the delay in getting clearance from the Forest Department.

The Tumakuru diversion canal that takes water from the distribution chamber at Ajjampura to Tumakuru, as per the design, passes through the grasslands of Basur Amruth Mahal Kaval Blackbuck Conservation Reserve and Bilvala Kaval in Chikkamagaluru district. The land measuring 1,820.11 acres was designated as a conservation reserve through a notification issued on April 30, 2011, as per the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. The 2.15-km-long canal that intersects the conservation reserve is expected to obstruct the movement of blackbucks, foxes, wolves, and other wildlife, besides the Amruth Mahal cattle.

A file photo of Basur Amruth Mahal Kaval Blackbuck Conservation Reserve in Kadur taluk.

Earlier, environmentalists had filed a public interest litigation against the allotment of Basur Kaval and Bilval Kaval for the project. The petition was dismissed by the High Court in August 2022. However, the court directed the Water Resources Department to seek clearance from the Forest Department.

M.S. Harsha, Assistant Executive Engineer of

The Tumakuru diversion canal passes through the Basur Amruth Mahal Kaval Blackbuck Conservation Reserve and Bilvala Kaval in Chikkamagaluru dist.

VJNL (Kadur), told *The Hindu* that the project required 16.2 hectares of land for the total 3.16-km-long canal, of which 1.06 km passes through Bilval Kaval. "The total length of the Tumakuru canal is 159 km. The 3.16-kilometre stretch falls within the initial reach. Hence, we require early clearance to go ahead with the project," he said. The Water Resources Department has approached the Chikkamagaluru district administration to identify suitable compensatory afforestation land so that they could seek forest clearance.

Besides that, the senior officers of the Water Resources Department recently held a meeting with officers of the Animal Husbandry Department on the construction of canals through the grasslands of Bilaval Kaval. The officers of the Animal Husbandry Department have appealed to the VJNL to construct the canals so that they would not affect the movement of the cattle. The animals should get passages, a pond, and chain-link fencing to ensure the safety of the cattle.

What the project entails

The project, with an estimated cost of ₹20,852 crore, has been planned to lift 29.9 tmcft of water from the Tunga river and Bhadra reservoir to irrigate 2.25 lakh hectares and fill up 367 tanks.

The first phase of the work involves lifting 17.4 tmcft of water from the Tunga river to Bhadra reservoir through a 11.26-km-long canal. In the second phase, 29.9 tmcft of water is lifted from Bhadra reservoir to the distribution chamber located at Ajjampura, from where water will be diverted to targeted destinations through the Chitradurga canal and the Tumakuru canal.

Power towers

The implementing agency is facing difficulty installing power towers to make the pump houses operational in the first phase of the project due to the delay in getting forest clearance.

C.R. Prasanna Kumar, AEE, VNJL (Muthinakoppa), said that 11 towers need to be installed in the area that is submerged due to the Upper Tunga Project.

"The work can be done only during the summer when the water level is low in the Tunga river. The most suitable time to take up the work is from February to May. If we miss the opportunity now, we have to wait for another year for a suitable time," Mr. Kumar said.

Shivaprakash K.M., chief engineer of Upper Bhadra Project, told *The Hindu* that the process to get the clearance was on. The work would be taken up as soon as the clearance was obtained.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA, AT BENGALURU
PROBATE CIVIL PETITION NO.25 / 2023
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MR. DANIEL CASIMIR SYLVERIUS SEQUEIRA also known as **DANIEL CASMIR SEQUEIRA** also known as **DANIEL SEQUEIRA (TESTATE AND DECEASED)**

BETWEEN:
MR. PAUL MAHINTHAN ARULIAH
Son of Mr. Percy Aruliah, Aged about 53 years Residing at 68, Godalming Avenue, Wallington, Surrey, SM6, 8NW, United Kingdom
Represented by his Power of Attorney Holder MR. GEORGE MICHAEL DENIS SEQUEIRA Son of late Aloysius Sequeira, Aged about 72 years, Residing at 2B, Rucela Apartments, 43/2, Promenade Road, Bengaluru-560005
.....**PETITIONER**

AND
NIL .....**RESPONDENT**

WHEREAS the Petitioner above named has made a Petition dated 9th October, 2023 for the grant of extension of grant of Letters of Administration with authenticated copy of the Will dated 01.07.2014 in respect of the estate of Daniel Casimir Sylverius Sequeira also known as Daniel Casmir Sequeira also known as Daniel Sequeira (deceased) of Apartment 2B, Rucela Apartments, 43/ 2, Promenade Road, Bengaluru- 560005 in respect of the property of the deceased. Be it known that no Caveat has been entered and that the said Petition is posted for hearing on the **Nineteenth day of January, 2024** and all persons claiming to have any interest in the estate of the deceased may come and see the proceedings before the grant of extension of grant of Letters of Administration.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court this the **Fourteenth day of December, 2023**

By order of the Hon'ble Court
Assistant Registrar
High Court of Karnataka
Bengaluru-560001
Counsel for the Petitioner :
Vivek Anand Anthony Britto
Vir Anthony Britto
Advocates
"Daisville", 633, V Main, Indiranagar II Stage, Bengaluru-560038

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

41st DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Mrs K.JAYALAKSHMI
DOD: 20-12-1982
W/o. Late Mr. G.Krishnamurthy Achary
Fondly remembered by:
Sons: K.Sundararajan, Dakshinamurthy, Jayakumar,
Daughters: Mrs.Padmavathi, Mrs.Kasthuri

Kerala State Road Transport Corporation buses parked at Ernakulam. FILE PHOTO

Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation buses parked at Kempegowda Bus Station in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

How Karnataka won the legal right over use of abbreviation 'KSRTC'

In 2014, Karnataka SRTC submitted an application to register the KSRTC trademark with the Trade Mark Registrar's office in Chennai. They then issued a notice to the Kerala RTC

EXPLAINER

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Story so far

The longstanding dispute over the use of the abbreviation 'KSRTC' between Karnataka and Kerala has finally concluded. The Madras High Court recently ruled that there is no legal restriction preventing the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation from using the abbreviation 'KSRTC'.

Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation has secured legal ownership of its trademarks, including the abbreviation KSRTC. Both Karnataka and Kerala SRTCs have been using the abbreviation KSRTC for many decades now.

A controversy regarding the trademark designation 'KSRTC' surfaced in 2021 when the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation claimed that the Trademark Registry had granted exclusive rights to them for using the 'KSRTC' trademark. According to their claim, their counterpart in Karnataka had no entitlement to the trademark.

This sparked a huge controversy between the two state-operated transport corporations, leading to a legal dispute.

Who got the KSRTC acronym first?

The Mysore Government Road Transport Department (MGRTD), started in 1948 in Karnataka, transformed into the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation in 1973. Meanwhile, in Kerala, the former Travancore State Transport Department was reinstated as the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation on April 1, 1965.

According to officials from Karnataka SRTC, even though Kerala began using the acronym KSRTC first, it was Karnataka that initially registered the acronym.

"KSRTC had applied for a grant of Trade Mark Certificate for the use of the 'KSRTC' abbreviation. The corporation was granted Trade Mark Certificates by the Trade Mark Registry of the Government of India in 2013 with a user date of 1.11.1973. Copyright is also obtained from the Registrar of Copy Rights for the use of the 'KSRTC' logo and 'Gandabherunda art'," a senior KSRTC official told *The Hindu*.

The Kerala RTC, too, obtained registration of the marks in 2019, claiming prior use.

How did the legal battle unfold?

In 2014, Karnataka SRTC submitted an application to register the KSRTC trademark with the Trade Mark Registrar's office in Chennai. Upon successful registration, they issued a notice to the Kerala RTC, objecting to the use of the trademark. In response, the Kerala RTC sought the intervention of the State Trade Mark Registrar, and Kerala emerged victorious by invoking Section 34 of the Trade Mark Act, which pertains to the "first user" rule. This section stipulates that a trademark proprietor cannot prohibit another party from using an identical or similar mark if the latter commenced usage before the proprietor's use or registration date. Since Kerala RTC was the initial user, starting in 1965, it established the right to use that trademark.

In substantiating its claim, Kerala RTC provided evidence in the form of photographs depicting old buses, bus depots and stands, written records, reports, and even scenes from old Malayalam movies. As part of the evidence, Kerala showcased scenes from the 1969 movie *Kannur Deluxe*, featuring visuals of a Kerala SRTC bus operating between Kannur and Thiruvananthapuram.

What is the Madras High Court order ?

In a release recently, Karnataka SRTC said that the Madras High Court had dismissed Kerala SRTC's claim for "exclusive" use of KSRTC abbreviation.

First Kerala State Road Transport Corporation had challenged Karnataka obtaining the copyright from the Registrar of Copy Rights for the use of the 'KSRTC' in the Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB) at Chennai.

In response, Karnataka SRTC had contended that Kerala State Road Transport Corporation is aware of the use of the trade mark by the Karnataka SRTC for 42 years, and hence, they are not entitled to apply for a declaration that the registration of the later trade mark is invalid since they have acquiesced the usage of the mark by Karnataka SRTC.

The matters that were pending before the IPAB were transferred to the High Court of Madras at Chennai after the abolition of IPAB by the Central Government.

"The matter was posted before the High Court of Madras on December 12, and the High Court has dismissed the application filed by Kerala SRTC and the case is decided in favour of Karnataka SRTC. In view of the dismissal of the case filed by Kerala SRTC, the Karnataka SRTC has no legal hurdle to use the name "KSRTC" in future also," a KSRTC official said. Now there is no legal hurdle for either to continue to do so. However, Kerala is currently using "Kerala SRTC" on their inter-state buses. The website domains of the two are "keralartc.com" and "ksrtc.in".

What is the current size of the KSRTC operations and what is its reach?

Karnataka SRTC has its Corporate office at Bengaluru. Presently, it covers 17 Districts -Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Ramanagara, Kolar, Chickballapur, Tumkur, Chitradurga, Davanagere, Shivamogga, Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Chikmagalur, Hassan, Mysuru, Mandya, Chamarajnagar, Kodagu - under its operational jurisdiction.

The Corporation operates within a three-tier system comprising the corporate office, division offices, and depots. It consists of a total of 16 divisions, including 15 operating divisions and one dedicated to the Kempegowda Bus Station in Bengaluru. Additionally, there are 82 depots, two regional workshops, one central training institute, four regional training institutes, one printing press, and one hospital.

KSRTC has a workforce of about 34,904 employees. It operates on an average 26.79 lakh kms daily with a fleet size of 8113 vehicles and earns traffic revenue of ₹961.12 lakh daily by catering to 23.23 lakh passengers on an average. It stands fifth amongst State Transport Undertaking (STUs) in the nation by size.

AI-powered Drug Discovery start-up Peptris raises $1M in pre-seed funding led by Speciale Invest

The investment will enable Peptris to accelerate its AI-powered discovery programmes and expand its pipeline of potential drug candidates

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Peptris Technologies Private Limited, a Bangalore-based AI drug discovery company, has announced $1 million in pre-seed round investment led by Speciale Invest.

The funding would help boost the company's efforts in advancing AI-driven solutions in the drug development/discovery sector, with a special focus on developing novel therapies for undruggable targets, particularly in oncology, inflammation, and rare diseases.

Drug discovery process

Peptris, through its AI platform, aims to transform the traditionally lengthy and costly drug discovery process, which often spans over a decade and incurs substantial costs, making essential medications financially out of reach for many.

The company's technology narrows down extensive chemical libraries to pinpoint promising drug candidates, marking a significant advancement over traditional drug discovery methods.

(From left) Narayanan Venkatasubramanian, Anand Budni, Shridhar Narayanan and Amit Mahajan.

The team at Peptris intends to leverage and capitalize on the recent maturation of AI technology in developing its proprietary drug discovery platform. The strides in unsupervised learning and the availability of vast chemical libraries have opened new avenues in the sector, offering substantial market opportunities.

Peptris is capitalizing on this opportunity by developing a proprietary AI platform that reduces preclinical development timelines and costs multifold.

Rare diseases

The company is broadening its research scope to include rare diseases, in addition to its ongoing work in oncology and inflammation. This strategic expansion aligns with the company's mission to leverage AI for the rapid and efficient discovery of novel therapeutic options. The integration of AI in drug discovery, particularly in the context of rare diseases, addresses over 7000 known conditions lacking approved treatments.

"The partnership with Speciale Invest marks a significant milestone in our journey."

"The current funding will help us accelerate our AI-powered discovery programmes and create a robust pipeline of potential drug candidates," said Narayanan Venkatasubramanian, CEO and co-founder of Peptris.

India's pharmaceutical expertise

"The backing from Speciale Invest is set to catalyze Peptris' journey, supporting the expansion of the drug pipeline and further refinement of the platform," he further added.

Peptris was founded in 2019 by Narayanan Venkatasubramanian, Anand Budni, and Amit Mahajan who are computational experts and Shridhar Narayanan who has contributed to the discovery and development of several clinical candidate drugs, including Enmetazobactam.

The team has been incubated at C-CAMP in Bengaluru.

"We hope this partnership will help leverage India's pharmaceutical expertise and computational talents, making a significant impact globally. This investment aligns with Speciale Invest's mission to support deep tech start-ups set to revolutionize their industries through scientific research and innovative technologies," said Vishesh Rajaram, Managing Partner at Speciale Invest.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 20, 1973

Karnataka to Have 3 More Ministers

Bangalore, Dec. 18: Three more additions were announced to the Devaraj Urs Cabinet tonight. They are, Messrs. N. Rachiab. S.M. Yahya, and C. N. Patil. This is the second instalment of names in the reshuffle af the Karnataka Cabinet.

All the three of them are to be sworn in to-morrow at 9-25 a.m. by the Governor along with the three others, whose names have already been announced, namely, Mr K.H. Ranganath, PCC President, Mr. N. Chikke Gowda, who has been elevated to the Cabinet rank from Minister of State, and Mr. R.D. Kittur, Minister of State. The latest announcement takes the strength of the Cabinet to 14, including the Chief Minister. The portfolios of the new three Cabinet Ministers have not been announced, as in the case of the two other Cabinet Ministers-designate.

Contrary to expectations, the announcement did not cover the Ministers of State which is expected to be made later.

Contrary to expectations, the announcement did not cover the Ministers of State which is expected to be made later. Mr. N. Rachiah, a former Minister in the Jatti Cabinet, is a sitting MLC from the Assembly constituency. Mr. S.M. Yahya represents Bhatkal constituency in North Kanara in the Assembly, while Mr. C.N. Patil is the sitting member from the Lingsugur Assembly constituency in Raichur district. The announcement was conveyed to pressmen over the phone late to-night, by the Chief Minister's Personal Secretary.

The constitution of the entire Council of Ministers comes in the wake of the ministerial crisis on December 5 when all the Ministers tendered their resignations over the Basavalingappa affair.

A touch of star quality (Clockwise from top left) SVN Rao with actor Rajkumar, Begum Parveen Sultana, Mysore Royal Jayachamaraja Wadiyar and Flute Mahalingam. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Centenary celebrations
The panel discussion on December 21, to flag-off the centenary celebrations will feature artistes who closely knew SV Narayanaswamy Rao. "The cultural landscape of Karnataka and how SVN contributed to see changes evolve, will be discussed by Mandali chairman CS Kedar, IAS; senior music critic M Surya Prasad; senior journalist R Poornima; musicologist Anand S; and some of the earliest performers at the Mandali — violinist Mysore Manjunath and vocalist Vidyabhushana," says Abhijith Varadaraj, SVN's grandson who is actively involved in organising the festival.
"We will have special programmes every month for two years to celebrate SVN until December 2025. The centenary year Ramanavami in April 2024 will honour 100 artistes," he adds.

Tryst with melody

The birth centenary celebrations of SV Narayanaswamy Rao, the visionary behind the Sree Ramaseva Mandali, begin on December 21

Ranjani Govind

Way back in 1962, Flute Mahalingam (Mali) had to grace the stage during aS Sree Rama Seva Mandali's Ramanavami concert, but some miscommunication led to the flautist not travelling to Bengaluru on that date. Organiser SV Narayanaswamy Rao's (SVN) commitment to the artiste and the assembled gathering saw him zoom to Chennai by car to personally pick up Flute Mali.

"The 7pm concert started only at 10pm, and the audience adamantly stayed put until they heard maestro Mali's magic on the bamboo reed pour forth. Those were the times when music connoisseurs and organisers saw an intimate engagement towards classical melodies. My father celebrated the spirit of music, unconditionally," says SV Narayanaswamy's son, SN Varadaraj who is helming the Ramanavami musical jamboree at Chamarajpet Fort High School grounds, after his father's demise in 2000.

Varadaraj says, "Those days when journeys were time-consuming and arranging train travel and accommodation for visiting musicians was laborious, Narayanaswamy personally took it up as his responsibility. Treasuring all spheres of classical melody and acknowledging every performer, his secular make-up was apparent when artistes such as Bade Ghulam Ali Khan, KJ Yesudas, Chembai Vaidyanatha Bhagavathar, Sarod maestro Ali Akbar Khan, Shehnai virtuoso Bismillah Khan and Parveen Sultana not only performed for Ramanavami, but also relished the divine *prasaada* served at the fest."

If there is one man whose contributions to the changing cultural landscape of Karnataka made a statement with music, it was Narayanaswamy Rao, whose efforts saw the Mandali grow substantially. The Mandali's 75th year was marked with a stamp release, commemorating its cultural status in the city.

Eminent dignitaries of the times such as Mirza Ismail, Sir M Visvesvarayya, PV Rajamannar, VV Giri and R Venkataraman have inaugurated the Ramanavami Festivals at various editions of the Sree Ramaseva Mandali. Most noteworthy occasions were in 1955 and 1957 when Mysore Royal Jayachamaraja Wadiyar, a musicologist and composer, inaugurated the celebrations along with C Rajagopalachari.

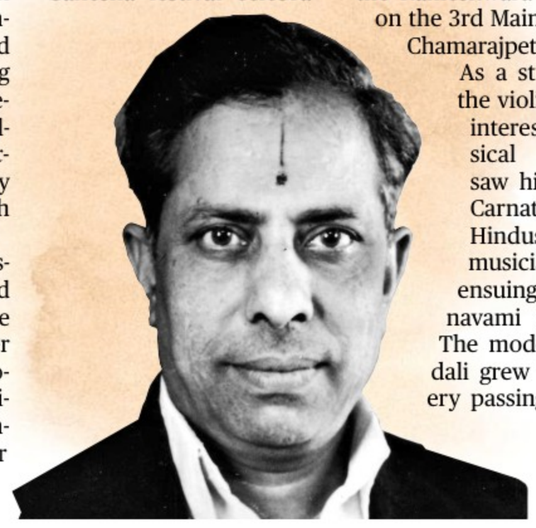
A seed is sown

In 1937, 13-year-old Narayanaswamy witnessed a young patriot fall to the ground injured while participating in a freedom movement protest at Bengaluru's City Market. This was during the British rule and police forces had opened fire to quell the uprising. The sight of the bleeding man calling on the Almighty whilst writhing in pain was haunted Narayanaswamy for a long while; eventually, he resolved to work towards cultural unity through *bhakthi*, and ingrain harmony in people through melody.

Narayanaswamy felt festival congregations would provide people with the right platform for prayer along with cultural proceedings for a commonality of purpose. The rationale was not just for religious outpourings, but to have a sense of reason and principle towards the propagation of our culture and music for a united India.

"My father conducted nearly ten Ramanavami Festivals during the British Raj, as he started the Ramothsava in 1939!"

Narayanaswamy – born on December 21, 1924 to Vasudev Rao of Shivarapatna and Janaki Bhai – was used to taking the lead while organising Holi and Ganesha festival celebrations. At the close of one of these festivals, the surplus money accrued from collected funds pushed him into thinking how this amount could be put to better use. Eventually, a three-day festival to celebrate Lord Rama through *bhakthi* and melody from 'Balakara Sreerama Bhajana Seva' took shape in 1939.



That was how the Mandali was flagged off from humble beginnings near the Rameshwara Temple, on the 3rd Main Road of Chamarajpet.

As a student of the violin, SVN's interest in classical genres saw him invite Carnatic and Hindustani musicians for ensuing Ramanavami festivals. The modest Mandali grew with every passing year – from platforms with bhajans and three-day concerts, to ultimately becoming a grand affair complete with spiritual discourses, youth contests, slots for budding musicians and the participation of stalwarts from every generation and genre.

A forerunner

Narayanaswamy Rao and ghata exponent KS Manjunath's passion to propagate meaningful music from the late 1930s proved to be an encouraging factor for several Ramaseva samitis and mandalis to take shape in the city. After Narayanaswamy Rao flagged it off in Chamarajpet, Bengaluru gradually saw almost every area in the city echoing with music during Ramanavami, making it a part of the city's music season.

In the early-1940s, Narayanaswamy was introduced to legendary violinist T Chowdiah and Flute Mahalingam, both of whom developed an instant affection for the Mandali and its purpose. Their strategy to help the Ramaseva Mandali banner fly high was simple – get artistes to perform by offering them a bonus: Chowdiah would accompany them on the violin.

It is said Chembai or his student Yesudas never accepted a pie, while vocalist Balamurali Krishna in the early 1960s was offered ₹12 for his performance! While Chowdiah and later, MS Subbulakshmi immediately donated whatever received during Ramanavami, Mandolin Shrinivas was known to only accept the blessings of the Divine.

"Devotion through music was the only underlying current," says Varadaraj. "Amjad Ali Khan too, who never accepted any fee, has been known to ask for his portion of holy water and *prasaada* before a concert."

Music that mattered

Narayanaswamy's five children have seen their father work for a public cause in society, which in turn translated to unseen benefits. They say Saleh Ahmed, the furniture dealers, supplied them with 10,000 chairs for a trifle. "With the goodwill earned by our father, we are now able to lock in programmes with top-rung musicians over the phone today."

"SVN established a special rapport with musicians and believed in nurturing young talent. He took great effort in making both performers and *rasikas* realise the unfathomable value associated in pioneering a cultural identity for pre-independent India," says Varadaraj.

(The panel discussion on December 21 will take place from 5pm-9.30pm at 21/1, SVN Rao Marg, 4th Main, 2nd Cross, Chamarajpet. It will also be live streamed on www.facebook.com/SreeRamasevaMandali)

A touch of spice

Priyamedha Dutta

Hiroyasu Kayama is not just Japan's greatest bartender and mixologist but also a YouTube sensation. Set in the captivating backdrop of what appears to be an eighteen-century alchemy shop, Kayama crafts an enchanting experience reminiscent of Willy Wonka's magical world in the bartending industry. His artistry has garnered millions of views online.

World view Hiroyasu Kayama and team at Bar BenFiddich. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Kayama's venture Bar BenFiddich in Tokyo has occupied the fourth position in *Asia's 50 Best Bars List* for quite some time now. Kayama who was recently in Bengaluru spoke to *Metro Plus* about Bar BenFiddich and his love for Indian spices.

Kayama started his bartending journey when he was 20 years-old out of sheer coincidence, "I was looking for a job at a hotel and I got placed at the bar. By 26, I became the head bartender and that's how it all happened gradually." After gaining considerable knowledge in bartending and mixology, Kayama opened his own place, Bar BenFiddich in 2013 in Tokyo.

The BenFiddich experience combines the motifs of a classic Tokyo bar with the feel of a makeshift moonshine operation (homemade spirits, wormwood, ancient herbal elixirs). At Bar BenFiddich Kayama introduced his signature, 'farm to glass' concept inspired by his family's farming background, "We are generational farmers, that was how I was introduced to a lot of fresh produce which I try to incorporate in my drinks." Even twigs found on the farm are sometimes used as garnishes and mixing spoons.

Ask him about his favourite spices to work with and there's never an easy answer, "I like to use both Indian and Japanese spices in my cocktails, but you will find me using a lot of fennel in my signature *Absinthe*. I also like using star anise and cardamom."

His Indian favourites include Amrut whiskey and Goa's feni. "I tried feni in India, it is almost like Indian mezcal."

Not just skin deep

Shilpa Anandraj

Beauty and the Beast, a Disney classic that goes beyond being skin deep, has fascinated audiences and we have seen varied perceptions of the same classic on stage and screen. Now, Imbroglio Productions (founded by Divyesh Bhandari) and Delhi Public School, Electronic City, collaborate to stage the Disney classic *Beauty and the Beast Jr* in Bengaluru.

"It is an adaptation of the story of transformation and tolerance and we have conceptualised the play in such a manner that we have tried to bring in a contemporary relevance to the classic. At the same time, we are keeping the classic intact and the quality of the production is professional.

"For instance, there is a song 'Home' in the classic. We have attributed it as a tribute to the millions of children who have lost their homes across the world," says Divyesh, who is also the director of the play.

Stage bright Divyesh Bhandari (right) and students at a rehearsal. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The play is being staged to celebrate the 10th anniversary of DPS, Electronic City and there will be, "130 children on stage who will be singing, dancing and acting live on stage," says Divyesh.

He adds that there will be "huge LED screens to show the towers and castles, crazy visuals, costumes, and sets. It's a classic tale with a modern message. We assure you it will not be like watching just another school play, but rather like a professional theatre production. The children have put in a lot of hard work along with the music director Amy Joseph and the choreographers Simran Thakur and Gautam Pujari, who are both veterans in their respective fields."

Divyesh says he became hooked to theatre, thanks to his school, Sarla Birla Academy, "which brought out a musical every year. I was a science student and topped school grades, but impulsively decided to take the arts when I passed out of class 10, to pursue theatre. My last school play as a student was *Lion King* which touched a chord in me and I knew I wanted to continue with theatre professionally."

Divyesh says that he studied theatre in the United Kingdom at the University of Leeds as well as music at the Trinity College of London where he finished his Grade Five exam before coming back to Bengaluru and starting Imbroglio in 2012.

"We started training adult actors, but were approached by schools and started working with the DPS chain. From there on we have been doing musicals and this is our 22nd production," says the 31-year-old. "There is abundant talent and scope all around us, we just need to tap into it. Schools these days have theatre as a serious subject in their curriculum, which opens up avenues for those wanting to get into theatre."

Beauty and the Beast Jr *will be staged at the Prestige Srihari Khoday Centre for Performing Arts on December 23 at 2pm and 7pm. Tickets on BookMyShow.*

CITYBEATS

Big bakes

ON GOING
BLVD by Embassy, a private luxury club in Hosahalli, is having a Christmas bake and sale of its exquisite range of rich plum cakes.
The cakes, said to be made with some of the finest ingredients, are priced at ₹700 for a 500gm plum cake and ₹1350 for a one kilo cake.
You can also place your order by calling 9741129933

Just dig in

ON TILL DECEMBER 31
Hops Haus Bangalore has unveiled their Festive Culinary Wonderland with a holiday special menu and Christmas cocktails. Curated by chef Vikas Seth, the menu offers a winter couscous salad, curried pumpkin soup and other delights of the season.
On at Hops Haus, White Field & Embassy One Bangalore, between noon and 11.30pm

Veggie bites

ON GOING
Khandani Rajdhani has launched its Swad Kesariya Festival, which serves a specially curated thali, offering a warm medley of vegetarian winter delights.
From *undhiyu, adadiya pak, mogri peru, mooli kofta subzi*, and desserts such as *shakarkhand* and *gajar ka halwa*, you will be spoilt for choice.
On at all Khandani Rajdhani outlets

HC steps in to prevent fleecing of Sabarimala pilgrims

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI/PATHANAMTHITTA

The Kerala High Court has asked the State Legal Metrology Department to blacklist the traders who overcharge Sabarimala pilgrims from other States.

The court directed the authorities to tighten inspection at the Sannidhanam, Pamba, Erumely and Nilakkal to prevent the traders charging exorbitant price for food.

The authorities should ensure that the traders collect the price fixed by the District Collectors concerned.

In the event of the traders charging excessive prices, it should be brought to the notice of the Travancore Devaswom Board and the local self-government institutions. Subsequently, steps should be initiated for blacklisting the traders, the Bench said.

'Display price list'

The court asked the authorities to ensure that the price list of food is displayed in all the eateries in different languages and a special officer appointed for addressing the grievances of the pilgrims.

The civic representatives assured the court that effective steps would be initiated for ensuring the court directives.

Meanwhile, after witnessing a less than expected footfall during the weekend, the inflow of pilgrims to Sabarimala witnessed a surge on Tuesday.

Focus turns to relief work in rain-hit South T.N.; over 3,500 persons relocated

Ten persons have died in rain-battered districts; in Thoothukudi, water remains stagnant rendering the port town inaccessible; over 500 passengers rescued from a stranded train

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUNELVELI

After heavy rain lashed the southern districts of Tamil Nadu leading to floods, 10 people have died in the battered Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli districts, even as the focus of the administration remains on relief and rescue operations.

Over 3,500 people from the worst-hit 36 villages and two town panchayats in Tirunelveli district were relocated to 75 relief camps from their marooned homes in low-lying areas, especially along the watercourse of Tamirabharani river.

Along with National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), the Fire and Rescue Services, police and the trained disaster management volunteers were involved in rescuing the families stranded in the flooded houses. Around 35 boats have been pressed into service to rescue the people.

A sizeable number of irrigation channels in the affected areas helped to drain the flood water into fields and back into the Tamirabharani river. Hence, stagnant flood water in more than 50% of the inundated places including Tirunelveli Junction Bus Stand has been drained.

Road to safety: Residents moving to safety on a earth mover in Thoothukudi as flood waters show no signs of receding, on Tuesday. N. RAJESH

As four more bodies were recovered on Tuesday, the toll in Tirunelveli district has risen to seven. Even though 10,000 litres of additional milk was brought in to Tirunelveli to meet the increased demand, long queues could be seen in front of the dairy shops. Power supply has been restored to more than 85% of the flood-hit areas.

In Thoothukudi, flood water remains stagnant since it cannot be drained into the Puckle Channel meant to carry sewage and rainwater into the sea.

Over 500 passengers from a stranded train at Srivaikuntam railway station were rescued by RPF and NDRF teams after 36 hours of wait on Tuesday.

The Indian Army personnel of 23 Maratha Light Infantry and Madras Regimental Centre joined the rescue operation in Srivaikuntam, Vasavappapuram, Naanalkaadu and Anthoniyarpuram, where they rescued over 1,000 people and safely moved them to the nearest relief centres.

The Indian Air Force (IAF), on its part, has stationed two Dornier aircraft at Madurai Airport to transport relief materials to Thoothukudi Airport even as the IAF's helicopters winched up stranded people including a pregnant woman and an 18-month-old baby and dropped food packets.

After sending 410 kg relief materials in the first batch on Tuesday, the second batch of 3.50 tonnes will be taken to Thoothukudi from Madurai on Wednesday.

While buses from Tirunelveli to all nearby places resumed operations, the rainwater stagnating or flowing along the arterial roads connecting Thoothukudi has left the town inaccessible. Consequently, power supply to more than 90% of the places are yet to be restored. Most of the mobile phone signal transmission towers are virtually "dead".

Congress to march to Kerala police chief's office on Dec. 23

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A spell of Congress-sponsored and possibly aggressive street protests await the Kerala government as the Cabinet's public outreach programme, 'Navakerala Sadas', enters Thiruvananthapuram district on Wednesday.

The Congress will muster hundreds of workers to lay siege to 564 police stations across the State on Wednesday. It has activated 1,500 mandalam committees to mobilise five lakh workers across the State for the anti-government demonstrations.

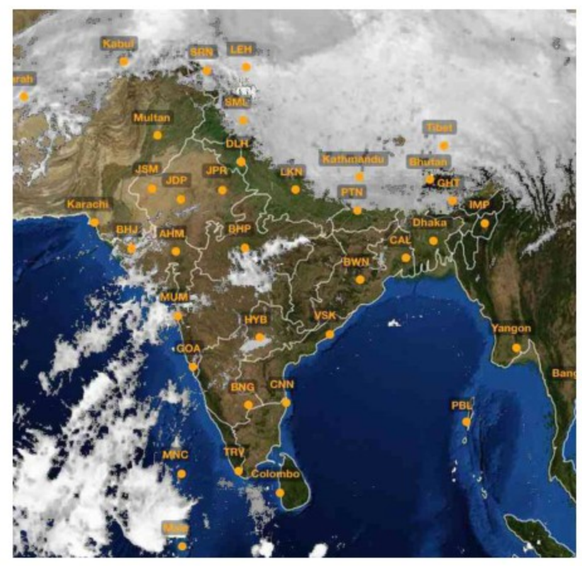
'Navakerala Sadas'

The Congress hopes to up the ante in its stand-off with the government by following up on the police station siege with a mammoth march led by party legislators and MPs to the State Police Chief's office in the capital on December 23. This protest would dovetail with the culmination of the Cabinet's Statewide political odyssey, the 'Navakerala Sadas', in the capital on the same day.

The Congress would use both rallies to sharply direct its ire at Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. It has accused Mr. Vijayan's personal security detail of unleashing wanton violence against KSU activists detained by the local police for waving black flag at Mr. Vijayan's motorcade in Alappuzha district last week.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning very likely at isolated places over Lakshadweep. Squally weather with wind speed 40-45 kmph gusting to 55 kmph very likely to prevailing over Gulf of Mannar and Comorin area. Fishermen are advised not to venture into these areas.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	26.4	12.4	Kozhikode	0.1	34.4	25.0
Ahmedabad	—	26.2	15.5	Kurnool	—	31.0	20.7
Aizawl	—	27.5	—	Lucknow	—	23.1	8.9
Allahabad	—	23.8	9.9	Madurai	10.0	29.3	23.2
Bengaluru	—	27.3	17.7	Mangaluru	—	33.3	24.9
Bhopal	—	24.1	10.5	Mumbai	—	31.6	24.4
Bhubaneswar	—	26.6	13.8	Mysuru	—	—	—
Chandigarh	—	21.0	6.5	New Delhi	—	23.1	6.7
Chennai	—	30.1	24.7	Patna	—	24.9	9.6
Coimbatore	2.0	28.4	21.8	Port Blair	0.2	31.6	27.0
Dehradun	—	23.9	5.1	Puducherry	—	29.6	22.6
Gangtok	—	13.4	7.6	Pune	—	29.4	19.2
Goa	—	33.8	25.5	Raipur	—	26.6	11.5
Guwahati	—	26.6	14.0	Ranchi	—	21.2	9.8
Hubballi	—	29.0	19.0	Shillong	—	17.2	5.6
Hyderabad	—	27.7	17.9	Shimla	—	16.4	6.4
Imphal	—	22.5	7.5	Srinagar	—	11.0	-3.7
Jaipur	—	24.3	9.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.6	23.7
Kochi	0.2	29.0	25.4	Tiruchi	—	29.7	23.6
Kohima	—	15.2	5.0	Vijayawada	—	28.6	20.4
Kolkata	—	24.6	15.1	Visakhapatnam	—	28.4	21.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	6	2	28	136	118	
Bengaluru	6	11	66	170	124	
Chennai	9	19	—	113	112	
Delhi	10	84	58	328	229	
Hyderabad	53	16	48	127	112	
Kolkata	25	71	24	266	165	
Lucknow	7	47	43	220	132	
Mumbai	11	3	29	206	154	
Pune	—	21	49	219	118	
Visakhapatnam	15	58	50	180	144	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Nehru Nagar, Delhi recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 328 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Arumbakkam, Chennai, recorded a healthy AQI score of 113.

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

INBRIEF

T.N. drops plan to open shutters of Mullaperiyar dam

Tamil Nadu cancelled the decision to open the spillway shutters of Mullaperiyar dam on Tuesday after a lull in rainfall and reduced inflow of water to the dam since Tuesday morning. Idukki Collector Sheeba George said Tamil Nadu had informed the district administration that shutters were to be opened at 10 a.m., to regulate the water level, and a maximum of 10,000 cusecs of water was to be released to the Periyar river. According to sources, Tamil Nadu cancelled the spillway shutter opening after a reduction in rainfall in the catchment areas of Mullaperiyar.

Government Of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, DAVANAGERE DISTRICT
Zilladalitha Bhavana, Plot No. 77, Karur Industrial Area, Old P.B. Road, Davanagere. Pin Code-577006
No: Other(CSR): CR: 01:2023-24 Date: 13.12.2023.

Short Term e-procurement Tender Notification

Short term Goods e-Tender are invited through e-procurement for purchase under CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility Fund) grant for the work of Integrated hot water solution system with Air source heat pump which is required in the Bala Mandira, State Women's Hostel, Department of Women and Child Development, Davangere, and ESI Hospital Phase-I, Davangere within the Davangere City area for the year 2023-24.
Short term Goods e-Tender has been invited through e-procurement from Date: 14.12.2023 to 28.12.2023, as follows.
Tender Name And number:- Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Integrated hot water solution system with Air source heat pump [MIS(CSR)/CR:01/2023-24] Amount put for tender in Rs Lakhs (including GST):- 163.09 Last Date for Submission of Tenders through e-procurement portal:- 28.12.2023 Date of opening of Technical Bid:- 30.12.2023 Date of opening of Financial Bid:- Will be notified to the technically eligible bidders Contract Period:- 90 days
The details of the said goods and other conditions can be obtained through the e-procurement portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/. Any change in the schedule will be notified only on the e-procurement portal and in case of change no newspaper or any advertisement will be issued.
ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/417/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2023–24
Sd/- Deputy Commissioner, Davanagere District.

Government of Karnataka - Forest Department
Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bhadravathi Division, Lower Hutha
Bhadravathi – 577301
Ph:08282-266355 Fax:08282-266647
e-mail:dcfbdvt@yahoo.in
No.: A2:BUD:Tender.C.R-26/2023-24-8 Date: 18.12.2023
(Through e-Procurement Portal)

Tender is invited through https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal for below mentioned works in the limits of various zones of Bhadravathi Forest Division for the year 2023-24. For Tender conditions and further information this office can be contacted during office hours and details regarding the Tender can be obtained from the official website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Approximate amount of work: Rs. 69,94,460/-
1. Erection of double line solar tentacle fence of various places of Bhadravathi Division And BARBED WIRE FENCING WITH RCC PILLAR AROUND THE NATURALLY GROWN FOREST AREA WITH QUALITY ROOT STOCK PLANTATION AT PILLEBEERANHALLI SY NO-16 OF TARIKERE RANGE:- *) Last date for Tender Submission: 03.01.2024 *) Date of opening Technical Bid: 04.01.2024 *) Date of opening Financial Bid: 04.01.2024
Sd/- Ashish Reddy M.V. (IFS), Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bhadravathi Division, Bhadravathi
DIPR/smg/No.76/12/ksmca/23-24/926

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ
ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಚೇರಿ, ವಿದ್ಯಾನಗರ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-580021.
ಕ್ರಸಂ: ಕಿಮ್ಸ/ಪೂವಿ(4) :14:2023-24 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 18-12-2023

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿಯ ಚರಕ **ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ನಿಲಯಕ್ಕೆ** Two Locker Steel Wardrobe ಪೂರೈಕೆಗಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತರು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಫಾರ್ಮಗಳನ್ನು **kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಟೆಂಡರನಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಮಾರ್ಪಾಟು ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.
ಸಹಿ/- ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ,
ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ

MYSORE MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE, MYSURU
(An Autonomous Institute of Government of Karnataka)
Irvin Road, Mysuru-570 001, Ph: +91-0821-2520512 (Off.)
Website:www.mmcri/karnataka.gov.in Email:mmcrimysore@yahoo.com
No.Sup/CR/180/2023-24 Date:03.10.2023

SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sub: Invitation of Short term Re-Tender for the supply of Instrument & other items to the Associated Hospitals of Mysore Medical College And Research Institute, Mysuru.
The Short term Re-Tender has been invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act 1999 for the supply of Instrument & other Items to the associated hospitals of Mysore Medical College and Research Institute, Mysuru, for the period of One year or until further orders (which ever is earlier). The Tender documents may be downloaded from E-procurement website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from**18.12.2023** and last date for submission of Tenders through E-procurement website is **01.01.2024 upto 5.00 PM.** Those tenders which are not submitted with E.M.D. will be rejected.
If, the last date for submission of Tender treated as holiday, the next working day will be considered as last date. No Notification in this regard will be announced.
Sd/- Director & Dean,
Mysore Medical College and Research Institute, Mysuru
DIPR/MYS/KAVITA/791/23-24

Kodagu Institute of Medical Sciences, Madikeri
(Government of Karnataka - Reg Autonous Institute)
Phone : 08272-220606 Website : www.kimskodagu.kar.nic.in
Ref: No. ME/2022-23/IND: Date: 18-12-2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Under signed invites e-tender notification in two Bid system from eligible tenderers through e-procurement portal **https:/kppp.karnataka.gov.in** GOK, for the supply of Medical Equipments to Department of Anesthesia. Applications can be downloaded from **19.12.2023,** last date for up load is **18.01.2024,** for more information contact e-procurement portal or office of the undersigned.
Sd/- Chief Administrative Officer
E-mail:directormckodagu@gmail.com **Kodagu Institute of Medical Sciences, Madikeri- 571201**

HUBLI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LTD
(Wholly owned Govt.of Karnataka under taking)
Superintending Engineer(Ele),
Tendering & Procurement Navanagar, PB Road,
Hubballi-580025 Phone:08362224792, Fax: 0836-2324307
Email.ID: seetp.hescom@gmail.com / seetp@hescom.co.in
Corporate Identity Number (CIN) : U31401KA2002SGC030437
No: HESCOM/ SEE (T&P)/ E-7/AEE-1/2023-24 /cys-4946 Dated: 19.12.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(E-Procurement Portal Only)

The undersigned invites tenders in two parts (Part –I: Techno-Commercial Bid and Part-II :Price Bid) through e-procurement portal for manufacture & supply of safety materials .

Sl No	Particulars	Enq.No.
1	Manufacture and supply of safety materials	HESCOM/2023-24/IND0006

For further details visit the website: kppp.karnataka.gov.in on OR after 19.12.2023
Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele),
Tendering & Procurement HESCOM, Hubballi.
DIPR/DWD/602/2020-21/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY

ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LIMITED
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ADVERTISEMENT FOR RECRUITMENT OF EXECUTIVES IN OMC LTD.

No. 85 / OMC Date: 19.12.2023

OMC, a Gold category and one of the largest State PSUs in Mining Sector in the Country, undertakes exploration, mining and trading of iron, chrome, bauxite & limestone ores. Inspired by the vision to emerge as the market leader and to play a catalytic role in the growth of industrialization, OMC caters to the requirements of mineral based industries. The Corporation has achieved an annual turnover of Rs.14,449.57 crores in the FY 2022 -23.
The Corporation invites application from dynamic & competent professionals in the following Cadres as follows:

VACANCY

Sl. No.	Name of the Posts	Pay under ORSP Rules, 2017: Scale of Pay (in Rs.) & Level	Pay under ORSP Rules, 2017: Initial Basic Pay (in Rs.) & Cell	Total posts	No. of Posts Reserved for: SC	ST	SEBC	UR
1	Sr. Manager (Mining), E-4 grade	67,700/- to 2,08,700/- (Level-13)	91,100/- (Cell-11)	01	--	--	--	01
2	Dy. Manager (Mining), E-2 grade	67,700/- to 2,08,700/- (Level-13)	67,700/- (Cell-1)	28 (W-08) (PwBD-01)	04 (W-01)	07 (W-02)	04 (W-01)	13 (W-04)
3	Dy. Manager (Company Affairs), E-2 grade	67,700/- to 2,08,700/- (Level-13)	67,700/- (Cell-1)	01 (W-01)	--	--	--	01 (W-01)
Total				30	04	07	04	15

Interested eligible candidates are advised to download the application format from OMC website: **https://omcltd.in>People>Career>Employment Opportunities** and submit the same duly filled in & signed along with attested copies of Certificates, Mark sheets, Experience Certificate etc. in support of their eligibility by Speed Post/Courier in a cover superscribed "APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF....." so as to reach the General Manager (P&A),Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd., OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751001 by **19.01.2024** positively. Applications received after the last date due to delay in postal/courier or any other reason shall not be entertained and will be rejected.
OMC Management reserves the right to cancel, amend or alter the above advertisement without assigning any reason thereof.
Sd/- General Manager (P&A)
ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LTD. (A GOLD CATEGORY STATE PSU)
CAD : OIPR-30005/11/0212/2324

PUBLIC NOTICE
PURCHASE

Notice is hereby given to the Public that the sale of agreement, executed between **Smt. Aleyamma John, Sri. Sunil John, Smt.Susan John** (THE OWNERS) and **Sri.Rajiv Rao Shastry, Smt.Manjula Rajiv Rao Shastry, Sri. Raghavendra Sugatekar, Sri Rahul Sugatekar** (THE PURCHASERS) for the Residential Property bearing Site No.1109, 13th Cross, HAL 2nd Stage Extension, Presently Binna Mangla, 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560038, layout formed by Bengaluru Development Authority,Presently under **BBMP Limits**, Ward No.89,PID No.72-4-1109, measuring East to West: 49 feet 6 inches and North to South: 40 Feet, along with constructed building thereon.
Any person having any right, claim or interest over the schedule Property may lodge their objections/claims in writing to the undersigned, with documentary proof, within 7(seven) days from the date of this publication. In the event of no claim being received within the stipulated 7 (seven) days, Our client will proceed with further transaction to purchase the Schedule Property and claims received thereafter, will not be entertained.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All the piece and parcel of the Residential Property bearing Site No.1109, 13thCross, HAL 2nd Stage Extension, Presently Binna Mangala, 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560038, layout formed by Bengaluru Development Authority, Presently under BBMP Limits, Ward No.89, PID No.72-4-1109, measuring East to West: 49 feet 6 inches and North to South: 40 feet, along with constructed building thereon and bounded as follows;
East by: Road, **West by:** Site No.1129
North by: C.I.T.B (BDA) Land
South by: Site No.1110
RAVI M.B (Advocate)
#66/113, 5th Cross, 10th Main, S.K.Layout, Jnana Jyothi Nagar, Bangalore-560056
Mob: 9036074066

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, JEFFLINE Jenisha W, 26 yrs, W/o Joshua Daniel Samuel, residing at No 363 William Tyndale Apartment, Saiacs, Doddagubbi cross road, Kothanur, Bangalore-560077, I have changed name from Jeffline Jenisha W to Jeffline Jenisha Samuel vide affidavit dt: 18.12.2023 sworn before Notary Uday Kumar.K, B'luru

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, DEBBIE Gambian, W/o Timothy Gambian, R/o No.667, 5th Main Road, OMBR Layout, Kalyana Nagar, Bengaluru-560043 have changed my name to Debbie Antonette Gambian vide affidavit dt: 18.12.2023 sworn before Notary A.Gerard, B'lore.

I, SANYUKTHA.R, D/o Ramesh, R/a No.34, Muthyalamma Temple, K Street, Shivajinagar, Bangalore-560001, have changed my name to Nagalakshmi.R. vide affidavit dt: 16.11.2023 sworn before Notary V.Rajashekhara, B'lore

TENDERS

WAPCOS LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking)
E- TENDER NOTICE
Name of the Project:
Development of Kovalam & adjacent beaches in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
Estimated Cost (Excl. GST): Rs. 43,54,30,000/-
Last date for bid submission: 12.02.2024, 01:00 PM
For details visit websites
www.etenders.kerala.gov.in , www.wapcos.co.in & www.eprocure.gov.in

M BG-BGE

Incoming call

Regulation of net world must address privacy concerns, simplify procedures

The introduction of the Telecommunications Bill, 2023, inches closer to achieving the Union government's long-standing aim of consolidating the law for wireless networks and Internet service providers, with a 46-page statute that leaves existing regulatory structures largely intact, while simplifying bureaucratic procedures such as applying for licences and permits for telecom operators. Licensing processes are set to be digitised, and telecom operators will have a new way of dealing with non-compliance with their licence terms, while also having access to district- and State-level authorities for permissions and dispute resolution when setting up their equipment and optical fiber networks on public and private properties. The Bill also lets the satellite Internet industry – long touted as a way for at least some remote areas to get net connectivity – breathe a sigh of relief, as there is clarity that it will not need to bid for spectrum, thus putting India on similar footing with other countries. The Bill has been welcomed by industry bodies for streamlining their regulatory landscape and promoting their ease of doing business, and could possibly give the much-needed regulatory stability and enabling environment for the next phase of telecom expansion. Over half of India's population is on the margins of the connected world, and the Bill could help.

But issues persist: the expansive definition of telecom brings in its ambit a range of services, and state authority over them raises concerns of privacy and surveillance. These concerns are not merely academic considering past allegations of state-sponsored snooping. The Bill tries to deal with spamming concerns, but its proposed solutions require additional compromises to privacy. The issues of surveillance reform and Internet shutdowns have massive implications, and must not be avoided just because they are contentious. The government must address these concerns with an open mind, considering the vast powers that the text of the Bill grants it. When the last draft was publicly floated for consultation, responses from industry bodies and the public were withheld from scrutiny. To further reassure the public of its clean motives, the government must scrupulously conduct rule-making with absolute transparency and consultation. This is especially important as many of the Act's provisions need subordinate legislation notified by the Department of Telecommunications before they come into force. The telecommunications landscape has evolved dramatically since the Telegraph Act was first passed in the 19th century, and regulation and lawmaking of the Internet world need to comprehensively address all the issues that have come with this digital explosion.

Turbulence in south

India must ensure better cohesion among agencies during disasters

December has been a month of turbulence for Tamil Nadu. Just when the northern parts of the State, Chennai and neighbouring districts, were recovering from Cyclone Michaung that crossed the coast two weeks ago, the southern parts, especially Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli, Tenkasi and Kanniyakumari districts, were battered by extremely heavy rainfall over Sunday to early Monday. Attributed to upper air circulation, 39 places registered "extremely heavy rainfall" (rain above 21 cm in 24 hours). Kayalpattinam in Thoothukudi recorded a whopping 95 cm while eight other places recorded over 50 cm in the same period. The entire weather activity was considered a freak occurrence in the ongoing northeast monsoon. Nearly four million people have been "very badly affected", as pointed out by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in his letter to the Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh. The Tamirabharani river even saw a flow of 1.5 lakh cubic feet per second (cusecs), another rarity. Even though the exact data on human loss has not yet been ascertained, the tally will be on the lower side. A train with about 800 passengers from Tiruchendur to Chennai, was stopped at the Srivaikuntam station. Going by initial reports, the infrastructure – roads, rail lines, canals, tanks and electric poles and many houses – has taken a beating. While a number of Ministers and senior officers are supervising relief operations, Governor R.N. Ravi, quite intriguingly, convened a meeting of the heads of departments of the Central government to discuss the operations.

The event again raises questions about weather forecasting and preparedness. As the enormity of the rainfall caught the State by surprise, questions have been asked why the Meteorological Department did not give any indication of its scale and coverage. But, the department's line of defence is its warnings, since December 14, of "very heavy to extremely heavy" rain for three days. Besides, the country's weather forecasting system has not progressed to the extent that exact amounts of rainfall, with their precise locations, can be predicted. While this is understandable, the scientific community should work towards precise forecasting. More importantly, there is scope for closer coordination between every department and agency serving the people. For instance, a better working relationship between the Meteorology department and the Railways would have ensured that the Tiruchendur train did not run. Changes to the services of certain trains in the southern districts were made only in a reactive rather than proactive way. A more cohesive working arrangement among different agencies can have a mitigating effect.

The deep import of the Article 370 verdict

Radha Kumar

is the author of 'Paradise at War: A Political History of Jammu and Kashmir'

Days after the Supreme Court of India's voluble judgment on the August 2019 presidential orders, there has been considerable, and excellent, dissection of its validation of the removal of Jammu and Kashmir's autonomy, and its cursory handling of Parliament's demotion and division of the State to two Union Territories.

Much of the commentary has dealt with the judgment's implications for the rest of the country, which are far-reaching. It undermines the rights of States *vis-à-vis* the Union even on critical issues such as statehood and division, grants the President far larger powers over States than earlier envisaged, and allows long-term political and territorial decisions to be made under limited-term emergency conditions such as President's rule.

There are three other key elements which have, however, been less discussed: what the verdict means on the ground for Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, what it tells us about how the Court sees peace and security, and what it implies for the fundament of democracy in India. Back in 1953-55, the States Reorganisation Commission held widespread public consultations during which villages expressed their preference for which unit to belong. This judgment negates even the right to consultation of the State's elected representatives.

On the ground, the judgment has been met largely with silence that is ambiguous in Jammu, disappointed in Kargil, welcoming in Ladakh (with reservations), and ominous in the Valley. Jammu's ambiguity centres on its experience of economic dispossession post-2019, when the Lieutenant-Governor's administration awarded trade, retail and mining rights to national rather than local industry. In Ladakh, Kargil's disappointment stems from the fact that its majority Shia wishes to retain ties to the Valley. Leh's welcome of separation from the Valley is tempered by the desire for an elected administration instead of a Lieutenant-Governor.

Impact on the Valley

The most severe impact is undoubtedly in the Valley, where the verdict has reinforced a widespread belief that Kashmiris are resented by the rest of India and their voice is repeatedly silenced. The circumstances in which the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, passed his August 5 orders were draconian, to say the least. Additional troops were sent in at July end, over 5,500 Kashmiri politicians and activists, including three former Chief Ministers, were put in detention on the day before, Section 144 was applied forbidding gatherings of four or more persons, and a total communications blackout was imposed.

> What has been discussed less are what the verdict means on the ground for Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh; how the top court sees peace and security, and what it implies for democracy

Notably, neither the main nor the concurring judgments mention these events in their summaries of incidents prefiguring the presidential orders.

Instead of acknowledging the enormity of the administration's actions, which imposed war-like conditions on the people, the judges accepted the alleged security threat, in August 2019, to the Amarnath Yatra – of which nothing has been heard since, either on what it comprised or how it was averted – as background to the presidential orders and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019. Security has also been accepted as a reason for the delay in restoring statehood, despite the administration's claim that the situation is much improved.

A blanket acceptance of alleged security concerns can be dangerous. Over the past eight years, it has allowed innumerable unwarranted arrests of journalists, activists and even comedians, who languish in jail on unproven charges of unlawful activities and/or sedition. The failure to probe security concerns has closed debate on policy and performance in tackling internal and external conflict, as can be seen in the cursory parliamentary discussion of the ongoing civil conflict in Manipur. Though there was indication of a security lapse leading to the death of 40 paramilitary troops in a terrorist attack in Pulwama in February 2019, there was no published inquiry into it. Whether we will learn the truth of the recent lapse that allowed a group of young Indians to let off canister smoke bombs in Parliament remains to be seen. Yet, policy accountability is critical to operational improvement.

Rising violence, violation of rights

In the recent judgment, Justice S.K. Kaul's 'epilogue' does take note of human rights abuses in Jammu and Kashmir. But it appears, like the main judgment, to ignore the violation of human and political rights in and since August 2019. Worse, both ignore the lesson learned from India's own experience, that peacemaking offers the best solution to internal conflict. Available data show a slowly rising curve of violence in Jammu and Kashmir after the Union Home Ministry adopted policies of purge and censorship, accompanied by deterioration in the India-Pakistan ceasefire agreement. By contrast, the data show a sharp curve of diminishing violence during the peace process of 2002-13.

In other words, the rise in violence between 2016-2018 that the Attorney-General and Solicitor-General referred to might have been more effectively countered by the policy of the A.B. Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh administrations, of improving democratic practice on the ground in the State while engaging in peace talks with Pakistan. Validation of the extreme clampdown of August 2019 and the actions taken under its cover, on the other hand, run the risk of an upsurge in violence if or when a semblance of democracy is restored.

Could a truth and reconciliation commission bridge the gap, as Justice Kaul appears to suggest? The proposal was made over a decade ago by then Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, but found few takers. Unlike the South African commission, which took place in the context of a peace agreement to end apartheid and transfer power to the African National Congress, Mr. Abdullah's proposal was made when peace talks with Pakistan had withered, first at General Musharraf's request and then due to the Mumbai terrorist attacks. Despite this end, the after-effects of the peace process lasted until 2014.

By contrast, there is no peace process in Jammu and Kashmir today. Far from it, the verdict's validation of the removal of autonomy, and administrative bias towards developers and industrialists from outside the former State, can only harden alienation in the Valley. In such a situation, who will reconcile with whom?

This blueprint may be of help

Many ask: Alright, but what is done is done. How do we move on from here? My answer will please no one.

The Union administration could start a new peace process. It could restore statehood, and hold elections. It could return freedom of expression. But it would need to be prepared for an outpouring of anger that has thus far been dammed by fear of arrest or worse, and to respond to that anger with compassion and understanding, not bullets and prison bars. Longer term, it would need to return to the blueprint for a solution that was developed by A.B. Vajpayee and Mr. Singh. That blueprint included the disarmament of armed groups and demilitarisation of the area, a soft border with autonomy for both Jammu and Kashmir and its Pakistan-held parts, together with an option of joint development for the whole of the former princely State.

I do not see the current administration returning to that blueprint, nor can I imagine another that would sustain. Perhaps better minds than mine will.

Tax 'HFSS' foods, view it as a public health imperative

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The consumption of High Fat Sugar Salt (HFSS) foods is one of the major risk factors to a host of health issues that include obesity, diabetes and high blood pressure. According to a World Bank report of 2019, worldwide, 70% of all overweight and obese people live in Low- and Middle-Income Countries, with a 55% rise in rural areas across the globe, dispelling the perception that overweight/obesity is only a problem in high-income countries and urban and affluent communities. The Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) burden in India has skyrocketed from 38% in 1990 to 65% in 2019. The global burden of diseases study shows that annually, 1.2 million deaths in India can be attributed to dietary risks alone. The economic impact of overweight and obesity in India was estimated at $23 billion in 2017. If unattended, this is likely to rise to $480 billion by 2060.

India's shift in dietary habits

The ultra-processed food sector in India witnessed a compounded annual growth rate of 13.4% between 2011 and 2021. As the world's largest producer and consumer of sugar in 2022, the country has seen an alarming surge in consumption of HFSS foods. About 50%-60% of edible sugar, salt and fat produced in India is consumed by the processed food industry. Sales of snacks and soft drinks have tripled over the past decade, exceeding $30 billion last year, indicating a disturbing trend in dietary habits. This not only poses severe health risks but also impacts productivity and economic growth, necessitating urgent interventions to curtail the rising consumption of these products.

There is a global trend of utilising fiscal measures to combat obesity. Taxation is considered to be an effective means to reduce the consumption of these products as most consumers are price responsive towards them. While taxation on sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs) is far more wide and used in more than 60 countries, taxation on HFSS food is less common, although rapidly increasing. Some 16 countries including Denmark, France, Hungary, Mexico, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States, among others, now have a dedicated tax on HFSS foods. Most recently, Colombia's "junk food law" introduced a gradually increasing levy on ultra-processed foods, providing a model for other nations. In India, Kerala had also introduced a 'fat tax' way back in 2016, which later got subsumed into India's Goods and Services Tax in 2017.

> Combined with nutrition literacy and effective food labelling, tax on High-Fat Sugar Salt (HFSS) foods can help improve health outcomes

Case for high HFSS tax

The imperative for taxing HFSS arises from significant market failures associated with their consumption, contributing to negative externalities and internalities. Negative externalities manifest as societal costs in the form of increased health-care expenditures. For example, the escalation of diabetes and obesity due to increased HFSS consumption leads to external costs imposed on society, necessitating substantial health-care expenditures, borne through elevated taxes to finance public health insurance such as the Ayushman Bharat Yojana. Meanwhile, internalities, stemming from consumers' limited understanding, influenced by aggressive marketing, result in inadvertent harm to themselves. Taxes can offer a targeted and effective means to curb detrimental consumption habits, thereby reducing societal burdens. Implementing such taxes has shown promise in various countries, demonstrating a reduction in the purchase of unhealthy items.

Unlike the taxation of other sin goods such as tobacco and alcohol, the HFSS taxation need not be viewed as a means for raising revenue, but should be seen as a fiscal tool to incentivise the industry to reformulate the products more in favour of healthier alternatives and for people to reorganise their food consumption basket in favour of a healthier diet. If properly designed, HFSS food tax can be both non-regressive, and fiscally neutral. A recent study on South Africa's Health Promotion Levy showed that there were larger relative reductions in purchases of taxable beverages among lower socio-economic status (SES) households compared with reductions observed in higher SES households, making such taxes non-regressive. Tax rates need to be differentiated based on the nutritional quality of the food so as to incentivise product reformulations. For example, it is possible to have a GST system with HFSS foods in the highest rate structure while their healthier alternatives have either zero or minimal tax rates so that the net tax burden on a household's food consumption basket remains the same. This would create a level-playing field between HFSS and their healthier alternatives, making healthier food choices more affordable and accessible.

GST and nutritional content

Current GST rates on ultra-processed foods, such as salty snacks and SSBs, do not adequately align with nutritional content. For example, tax on SSBs with a 28% GST rate and 12% compensation cess, overlooks sugar content. All aerated beverages are taxed uniformly as well. Similarly, juices face a flat 12% rate, irrespective of their fruit and sugar content. Salty snacks are taxed at 12% regardless of their salt content. Such inconsistencies fail to consider the varying nutritional impact of these products and hence show limited impact on altering consumption baskets in favour healthier alternatives.

HFSS taxation in India should not be merely seen as an economic or fiscal policy concern but it deserves to be considered a public health imperative. Effectively designed taxes can reap multiple benefits – they can act as a deterrent to consuming HFSS; promote healthier food choices; prompt manufacturers to reformulate foods; improve public health outcomes; reduce the burden on the health-care system, and foster the nation's well-being. When combined with other measures such as promotion of nutrition literacy and effective food labelling, it can be a more potent tool to combat the rising epidemic of overweight and obesity by creating a more sustainable and equitable food system.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Suspension of MPs

It is most unfortunate that the protesting Opposition Members of Parliament have been suspended en masse (Page 1, December 19). But still, the phrase, "murder of democracy", chosen by the Opposition to term this mass expulsion is least likely to resonate with the vast majority of people. One of the primary reasons for this is the lack of unity in the Opposition, which became quite evident during the recent Assembly elections and their aftermath. Without organic Opposition unity stemming from an array of common policies, which keep the welfare of the common man at the core, nothing much will happen by warning about the dangers faced by our democracy — even if this is the reality.

A. Venkatasubramanian,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

Parliament has now become the stage for combat. There is hardly any floor management or negotiations. The suspensions could have been the last resort, but, unfortunately, have become routine and regular. The contentious issue, of a security breach in Parliament, is a serious one that deserves apolitical deliberations. The developments during this winter session of Parliament are deeply upsetting for those who value democracy.

Dr. D.V.G. Sankara Rao,
Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh

Suppressing deliberations with the weapon of suspensions does not augur well for an age-old democracy such as that of India. What the people want most from Parliament and their parliamentarians is brainstorming that ensures the well-being of millions of Indians.

Khalid C.K. Jathiyeri,
Puliyave, Kozhikode, Kerala

Corrections & Clarifications

A sentence in the article titled "A glimmer of hope for Congress in Andhra" ("State of Play", Opinion page, December 19, 2023) read : "In Karnataka the Congress secured a *simple* majority, the first time a party has done so since 2004." It should have read: "In Karnataka the Congress secured an *absolute* majority."

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India's ethanol conundrum

As more than 100 countries at COP28 in Dubai pledged the tripling of global renewable energy capacity by 2030, India faces a tightrope walk with regard to its ethanol blending target. While ethanol blended petrol (EBP) increased from 1.6% in 2013-14 to 11.8% in 2022-23, the 20% target by 2025 has run into trouble with low sugar stocks in 2022-23 and the impending shortfall in sugarcane production this year. As evident from Minister of Consumer Affairs Piyush Goyal's statement in May, the government is looking at a major transition towards grains-based ethanol for meeting the target. The recent authorisation of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) and the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India (NCCF) to procure maize (corn) for supplying ethanol distilleries indicates emphasis on this transition and will boost an organised maize-feed supply chain for ethanol. This, however, risks creating more challenges for the economy.

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Crude and food prices

The two major feedstock for ethanol production are sugarcane (Brazil) and corn (the U.S.). Ethanol production in both these countries boomed from 2000 when crude oil prices started rising and remained above a certain threshold for a decade. (At low crude prices, ethanol blending is not competitive; it is a slow process driven by heavy subsidies.) A crucial difference between the use of sugarcane and corn for producing ethanol is the degree of food-fuel conflict that emerges. In the case of sugarcane, ethanol is produced by processing the molasses (C-heavy/B-heavy) and constitutes minimal trade-off with the sugar output. The B-heavy molasses path produces less sugar compared to the C-heavy one, but both produce sugar and ethanol simultaneously from sugarcane. But using corn for producing ethanol directly reduces its use as food or livestock feed. It not only diverts grain to fuel use, but also links food prices directly with crude oil prices through the demand side. The very high crude prices that prevailed for a decade in 2004-14 pulled up ethanol and corn prices to historical highs. More importantly, the high corn prices were quickly transmitted to other grain markets as soft grains, such as wheat/barley, started getting redirected into the livestock industry as corn substitutes. Though only 5-7% of the world's corn output was used for ethanol production at the peak of the U.S.'s corn-based ethanol programme, the price effect was widespread and remained the most important contributor to the 2006-14 global food crisis. This was primarily due to the relatively easy substitutability in grain use across food, feed, and fuel.

This strong link between crude and food prices in the era of agro fuels is re-emphasised by the fact that the food prices remained high even after the 2008 financial crisis caused most commodity prices to plummet. The Food and Agriculture Organization food price index softened only after 2014, when global crude prices fell below $80 per barrel, which also slowed down the U.S. ethanol blending trajectory. The post-pandemic recovery of oil prices has again pushed up food prices. In 2021, the food price index breached the previous record levels attained in 2011.

Unlike in the U.S., sugarcane is the more obvious choice for tropical countries such as Brazil or India where cane yields are higher. This is not to argue that using sugarcane for ethanol does not have adverse impacts on environment or hunger. More land under water-intensive sugarcane cultivation can displace food production as well as degrade water tables, but these can be regulated by appropriate land-use policies. It is far more difficult to control the market dynamics, driven by easily interchangeable grain use, as illustrated by the U.S.'s corn-based ethanol experience.

> The future of India's renewables strategy hangs on a delicate food-fuel trade-off; and a choice between intensifying hunger and reducing fossil fuel use

Meeting the target

In India though, differential pricing introduced in 2017-18 incentivised the use of cane juice directly to produce ethanol and exacerbated the food versus fuel binary, which is otherwise relatively subdued in the case of cane-based ethanol. When price incentives were given for ethanol produced from cane juice without the extraction of sugar, a process which gives a substantially higher yield of ethanol, mills abandoned the more sustainable molasses route. This was driven by the urge to hasten the journey towards the 2025 EBP target, which it achieved. The success generated challenges in the form of reduced sugar stocks. The December 7, 2023 order by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs banning the use of cane juice for ethanol production is a timely, corrective step. But by adopting a transition to grains-based ethanol to fast-track the 2025 target achievement (maize is expected to supply around half of the ethanol feed in 2023-24 and beyond), is the government hurtling towards a looming spectre of uncontrollable food inflation? For this path to meet the EBP target by 2025, India needs 16.5 million tonnes of grains annually (government estimates). This is a sufficiently high quantity to trigger a short-run price spiral in grain markets.

The future of India's renewables strategy hangs on a delicate food-fuel trade-off; and a choice between intensifying hunger and reducing fossil fuel use. On the one hand, the government can reconsider its EBP target and stagger it to contain the contradictions. On the other hand, we need more investment in public infrastructure, urban design to contain the fuel demand for automobiles, and in renewables such as solar power.

A changed political landscape in J&K

The Supreme Court verdict on Article 370 is a blow to the PDP and NC

STATE OF PLAY

Peerzada Ashiq

The Supreme Court's recent verdict upholding the Centre's 2019 decision to end the special constitutional status of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) has altered the political landscape of the Union Territory.

The immediate fallout was evident from the silence of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration, also known as the Gupkar alliance. The absence of a joint statement by the four-year-old political conglomerate comprising Farooq Abdullah's National Conference (NC), Mehbooba Mufti's Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Muzaffar Shah's Awami National Conference (ANC), and the CPI(M)'s M.Y. Tarigami to the verdict has been conspicuous. All the four leaders, who are also petitioners before the Supreme Court, chose to react strongly but separately to the verdict. To date, there has been no attempt to sit together or plan for the future, unlike earlier occasions when they would go into a huddle and put up a joint face.

The Gupkar alliance, which includes regional parties that are otherwise political rivals in J&K, came into being on August 4, 2019, just a day before the Centre decided to dilute the provisions of Article 370 and split the erstwhile State of J&K into two Union Territories. The declaration, which was signed by seven political parties, had warned that "modification, abrogation of Articles 35A and 370, unconstitutional delimitation or trifurcation of the State would be an aggression against the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh". The representatives of the political parties resolved "to remain together and stand united in their struggle for safeguarding [the] identity, autonomy and special status of J&K".

However, it seems that the Supreme Court judgment has the potential to bring down the curtains on this ideological alliance. Internal disputes regarding whether this ideological alliance could be turned into an electoral alliance against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in J&K came out in the open several times this year. Whether the Court verdict sounded the death knell for the alliance remains unanswered by the leaders.

Not only the Gupkar alliance, but even the NC's and the PDP's long-held positions on J&K remain between the hammer and the anvil. The NC's manifesto has always flagged the pre-1953 position of J&K as a final political settlement. The pre-1953 position would mean reversal of the Centre's authority except in the areas of communications, defence, and foreign affairs, as was underlined in the Instrument of Accession in 1947. On the other hand, the PDP's manifesto called for the reunification of pre-1947 J&K, which included Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, and pitched for joint decision-making bodies in several affairs, including trade, tourism, environment, and education. In fact, the cross-Line of Control movement of people and goods between the two parts of erstwhile J&K in 2005 was seen as the first measure in that direction.

The verdict, however, has posed a new challenge. These parties lost ground to separatists, especially the Hurriyat, which demanded the implementation of the UN resolutions on Kashmir calling for a plebiscite, in the past 30 years. The Hurriyat accused the NC and the PDP of failing to deliver on the promises made to the people. Both the parties believe that they are between the devil and the deep blue sea. If they go back on their political positions, they will be seen as weak political forces. If they harden their position, they will be subjected to the Centre's iron-hand approach. The parties have little choice but to reinvent themselves to stay relevant while also living up to the people's expectations.

NC vice president Omar Abdullah's decision to take a sabbatical on social media and Ms. Mufti's decision to stop addressing public rallies after the judgment show that the verdict has delivered a blow. Two statements from these leaders, however, hinted at how they might be reshaping party politics to keep their constituency intact after losing the case. Mr. Abdullah said on X, "It took the BJP decades to reach here. We are also prepared for the long haul." Ms. Mufti said that the Court verdict was not Allah's commandment and could be reversed the way previous Court judgments on Article 370 were reversed by the five-member bench of the Court on December 11, 2023. The statements hint at the existential crisis that these parties seem to be facing in J&K for the first time since the NC came into being in 1931 and the PDP in 1998.

New record set with the suspension of 141 MPs in a single session

Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and West Bengal are most impacted by the suspensions

DATA POINT

Jasmin Nihalani

Ninety-five MPs from the Lok Sabha and 46 MPs from the Rajya Sabha have been suspended during the ongoing winter session of Parliament. This is the highest number of MPs suspended in a single session in the history of Parliament. The record number was due to the Opposition's demand for a statement from the Home Minister over the security breach in Parliament. Commenting on the suspensions, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge accused the government of attacking Parliament and democracy.

The highest number of MPs suspended from the Lok Sabha was previously 63 (during the Eighth Lok Sabha, on March 15, 1989, when Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister). According to *The Hindu* archives, the entire Opposition was suspended due to its demand that the government discuss the Thakkar Commission report on the assassination of Indira Gandhi. That evening, Janata Dal leader V.P. Singh spoke to the media and accused the government of acting in a "brazen" fashion.

Table 1 shows the States represented by the suspended Lok Sabha MPs. Twenty-nine MPs from Tamil Nadu were suspended, the highest number across all States, which left just 10 MPs to represent the people of the State in the Lok Sabha for the remaining days of the session. Sixteen MPs from Kerala were suspended, leaving just four MPs, and 14 from West Bengal were suspended, leaving just 27 MPs. A lone MP from Puducherry was also on the suspension list, which leaves the Union Territory without any representation. This is the case with Lakshadweep, too.

Table 2 shows the parties represented by the suspended Lok Sabha MPs. Thirty-eight MPs from the Congress were suspended, the highest number across all parties, which leaves just 10 Congress MPs in the Lok Sabha. Sixteen MPs from the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and 13 from the All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) were suspended, leaving eight and nine MPs from each party in the Lok Sabha, respectively. All the three MPs belonging to the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) were suspended. The Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), the Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP), and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) were also left without an MP in the Lok Sabha as their lone MPs were suspended.

Table 3 shows the States represented by the suspended Rajya Sabha MPs. Eight MPs from West Bengal were suspended, the highest number across all States, which left a similar number to represent the people of the State in the Rajya Sabha. Seven MPs from Kerala and five from Tamil Nadu were suspended.

Table 4 shows the parties represented by the suspended Rajya Sabha MPs. Eighteen MPs from the Congress were suspended, the highest number across all parties, which left just 12 in the Rajya Sabha. Eight MPs from AITC and five from the DMK were suspended. Both the MPs from the Communist Party of India (CPI) and the lone MP from Kerala Congress (M) were suspended leaving the parties without an MP in the Rajya Sabha.

The above calculations are based on the list of sitting MPs available in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha website as on Tuesday.

Chart 1 shows the session-wise suspension of members in each term of the last four Lok Sabhas (UPA-I, UPA-II, NDA-I, and NDA-II). Only sessions during which at least one MP was suspended are depicted. Under UPA-I and II, 50 MPs were suspended; 189 MPs were suspended during NDA-I and II.

Chart 2 shows that seven members were suspended from the Rajya Sabha under UPA-I and II compared to the 94 members under NDA-I and II.

Protest and punishment

The data for the tables and charts were sourced from the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha website

SPEAK UP, PM ON PARLIAMENT'S SECURITY BREACH!
DEAFENING SILENCE, SHIELDING CULPRITS
DEMOCRACY UNDER SIEGE, WE WON'T BE CAGED!

Table 1: The table shows the States represented by the suspended Lok Sabha MPs

LOK SABHA

State	Sus. MPs	MPs left
T.N.	29	10
Kerala	16	4
W.B.	14	27
Bihar	12	28
Punjab	7	6
Assam	3	11
U.P.	3	76
J&K	2	3
Maharashtra	2	44
Chhattisgarh	1	7
Goa	1	1
H.Pradesh	1	3
Jharkhand	1	13
Lakshadweep	1	0
Odisha	1	20
Puducherry	1	0

Sus. MPs refers to suspended MPs

Table 2: The table shows the parties represented by the suspended Lok Sabha MPs

LOK SABHA

Party	Sus. MPs	MPs left
INC	38	10
DMK	16	8
AITC	13	9
JD(U)	11	5
NCP	3	2
IUML	3	0
SP	2	1
JKNC	2	1
CPI(M)	2	1
VCK	1	0
RSP	1	0
CPI	1	1
BSP	1	8
AAP	1	0

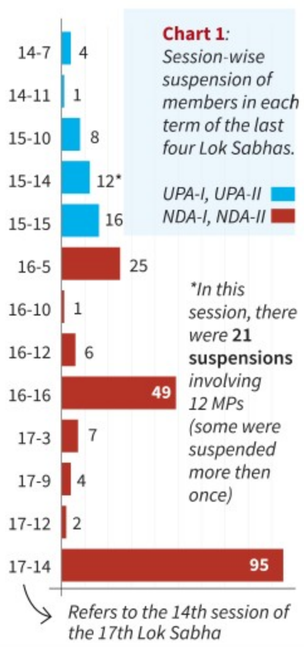


Table 3: The table shows the States represented by the suspended Rajya Sabha MPs

RAJYA SABHA

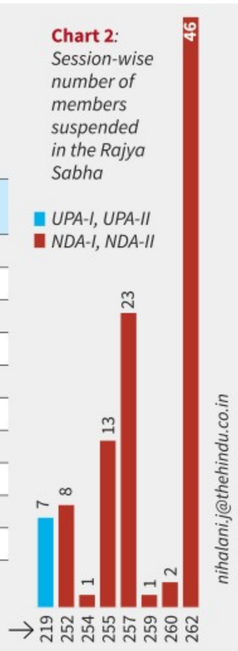
State	Sus. MPs	MPs left
W.B.	8	8
Kerala	7	2
T.N.	5	13
Rajasthan	4	5
Maharashtra	4	15
Karnataka	4	8
Bihar	4	12
Gujarat	3	8
U.P.	2	29
Chhattisgarh	2	3
M.P.	1	10
Jharkhand	1	5
Assam	1	6

Table 4: The table shows the parties represented by the suspended Rajya Sabha MPs

RAJYA SABHA

Party	Sus. MPs	MPs left
INC	18	12
AITC	8	5
DMK	5	5
CPI(M)	3	2
SP	2	1
RJD	2	4
JD(U)	2	3
CPI	2	0
NCP	1	3
KC(M)	1	0
JMM	1	1

Refers to the Rajya Sabha sessions



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 20, 1973

CBI and Interpol probe on blood racket planned

New Delhi, Dec. 19: The Health Minister, Dr. Karan Singh, to-day promised to involve the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Interpol to investigate the "extremely serious matter" of the blood racket operated by some Western pharmaceutical companies in India. The Minister, who was replying to a calling attention motion on the issue in the Rajya Sabha, said that there was "considerable shortage" of blood and blood derivatives in the country and it was necessary to prevent any such exploitation. Members from all sections of the House were alarmed at what they called "the shameful exploitation" by "international gangster firms" operating in India and Dr. Karan Singh assured them that he was in touch with the Maharashtra Government, the World Health Organisation and other concerned agencies in the matter "so that any such evil can be nipped in the bud." In the course of the discussion, Mr. Lok Nath Misra (Swat.) drew the Minister's attention to sub-standard blood being collected by blood banks, which led to spread of infection. Dr. Karan Singh told him that Government was looking into the whole question of blood collection, quality control and augmenting of blood supplies.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO DECEMBER 20, 1923

Madura floods

Madura, Dec. 19: There have been heavy floods in Tambaraparani river for the last four days. Besides, a few big tanks in the district have breached. Portions of Tinnevelly town, Sanniasigramam, Kailasapuram, Veeraraghavapuram, Sindupundurai are 3 to 5 feet under water. Tinnevelly bridge Srivaikuntam, Tiruchendur, Alwartirunagari, and some other Railway stations have been under water for the last three days. Station records, staff quarters, and property have all been washed away. Srivaikuntam Railway Station is surrounded by water to the extent of about four miles on both sides. All communications beyond Srivaikuntam have been cut off. Several telegraph posts have been washed away and the railway lines have sunk into earth. From Tenkasi upto Trivandrum the Railway line is unimpaired.

From Page One

Suspensions continue as 49 more MPs face action

The Lok Sabha currently has 198 Opposition MPs, though this figure includes those from parties which often align with the government, such as the Biju Janata Dal, All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), and Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP). Of the 139 INDIA bloc MPs, 95 have been suspended.

Pandemonium broke out in the Lok Sabha as soon as it assembled for the day, with Opposition MPs trooping into the Well, shouting slogans and carrying placards.

Speaker Om Birla took strong objection to this. "This House belongs to you. We all have decided that no one will bring placards inside the House. Even you have come to the podium. Is it correct? Please go back to your seat. I am giving you last warning," he said. Asserting that he had been giving equal opportunities to all MPs to speak, the Speaker said that they should cooperate and take part in the proceedings. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi also objected to the display of placards carrying pictures of Mr. Modi.

Mass suspensions

When the House reassembled at 1 p.m. after two brief adjournments, BJP MP Rajendra Agrawal read out the names of the 49 Opposition MPs who were being suspended. The list included Congress MPs Shashi Tharoor, Manish Tewari, Gurjeet Singh Aujla, Pradyut Bordoloi, Karti Chidambaram, and Ravneet Singh Bittu; DMK MPs S. Jagathrakshakan, S.R. Parthiban, A. Ganeshamurthi, P. Velusamy, Senthilkumar, and M. Dhanush Kumar; Nationalist Congress Party MPs Supriya Sule, Amol Kolhe, and P.P. Mohd Faizal; Samajwadi Party MPs Dimple Yadav and S.T. Hasan; Aam Aadmi Party MP Sushil Kumar Rinku; the suspended Bahujan Samaj Party MP Danish Ali; and senior National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah.

After they were suspended, the Opposition lawmakers held an impromptu protest just outside the main gate of the Parliament.

Women MPs of BJP seek more time to discuss criminal law Bills

The three redrafted Bills will replace the laws from the British era; Home Minister expected to speak on the legislation today even as the Opposition benches remain depleted because of the mass suspension of MPs over protests

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Tuesday took up the discussion on the three redrafted Bills that seek to replace the British-era criminal laws. Union Home Minister Amit Shah introduced the Bills in the Lok Sabha last week.

The three Bills are the Bharatiya Nyaya (Second) Sanhita Bill, 2023; the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha (Second) Sanhita Bill, 2023; and the the Bharatiya Sakshya (Second) Bill, 2023. They will replace the Indian Penal Code, 1860; the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898; and the the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.

Most of the Opposition members were not present in the House when the Bills were discussed.

The Home Minister is expected to speak on the Bills on Wednesday.

Women MPs from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) said they should be given enough time to speak on the Bills that give priority to tackling crimes against women and children.

Amidst the chaos: Union Home Minister Amit Shah speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Winter session of Parliament on Tuesday. PTI

Jaskaur Meena, BJP MP for Dausa in Rajasthan, said women were not being treated on an equal footing even in the Lok Sabha. "We have been sitting here since morning, even then we are called at the end to speak. Can't we give elaborate speeches just like Satya Pal Singh and Ravi Shankar Prasad?" Ms. Meena asked.

Earlier, BJP MPs Sangita Kumari Singh Deo and Sunita Duggal also said that they should be given enough time to speak on the three Bills.

Mr. Prasad, while speaking on the Bills, said that some Opposition members were directly or indirectly supporting the persons accused of jumping into the Well of the House on December 13.

"Aren't there problems in Kerala, Karnataka or West Bengal? Will they tolerate if someone sets fire or applies some powder in these Assemblies," Mr. Prasad asked.

"One thing was special about the British, even if the Britishers committed crimes, they did it under the garb of law. They wanted amiable people...their skin may be Indian, mind must be British. All big universities in India were founded around the same time when these laws were framed. Why the law was not amended earlier? Why did it take 500 years for us to build the Ram Temple. Why do we have to struggle for Kashi Vishwanath Mandir and Mathura temples?" Mr. Prasad asked.

He added that the new Bills would pave the way for the digitisation of first information reports, chargesheets and case diary while search and seizures would be videotaped without which the chargesheets would not be accepted by the court.

'Political tool'

Bhartruhari Mahtab of the Biju Janata Dal, while supporting the Bills, cautioned that Section 150 of the the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha (Second) Sanhita Bill, 2023 continued to criminalise any act that excites or attempts to excite secessionist activities and penalises a person who indulges in any such act, thereby providing law enforcement agencies a greater discretion to decide what can be brought within the fold of an act endangering integrity and security of the country.

"This discretion is wide spectrum," he said, adding that the term "separatist activity" can be interpreted in several ways and can be used as a political tool to stop Opposition parties from organising protests against any of the policies of the government.

The redrafted law retains the provision of sedition, though under a different name.

Tejasvi Surya of the BJP said that in many dowry-related cases, senior citizens were harassed due to false cases despite multiple Supreme Court rulings on arbitrary arrests. "For the first time, by codifying this as a principle, interests of those who are weak... senior citizens are protected from arbitrary arrests," Mr. Surya said.

Satya Pal Singh of the BJP said the doors of the Supreme Court were opened at 2 a.m. for a terrorist, but when it came to poor people, they have to wait for years.

Bank accounts frozen by I-T Department: *NewsClick*

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Online news portal *NewsClick* said on Tuesday that its bank accounts had been frozen by the Income Tax Department and it would undertake legal measures against this "unjust and cruel" action.

There was no immediate response from the tax authorities.

"As of the evening of December 18, *NewsClick* has been unable to make any bank payments due to action by the Income Tax Department. This action appears to be a continuation of the administrative-legal siege of the news portal, which began with the ED raids in February 2021, followed by an I-T Department survey in September 2021 and the October 3, 2023 crackdown by the Delhi Police Special Cell," the portal said in a statement.

It said the organisation did not receive any intimation of the freezing of accounts. "As a result of this high-handed action, salaries of all employees, journalists, consultants and contributors cannot be paid, including for 19 days of December they have already worked."

T.N. Minister convicted, faces disqualification

He set aside an April 2016 order of acquittal passed by a special court for Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA) cases in Villupuram. He declared that the trial court verdict, in favour of the Minister and his wife, was "palpably wrong, manifestly erroneous and demonstrably unsustainable". The judge said that the prosecution had clearly proved that the couple was in possession of assets worth ₹1.72 crore disproportionate to their known sources of income during the check period between April 13, 2006, and May 13, 2010, when Mr. Ponmudy had served as Minister for Higher Education and Mines.

Therefore, Justice Jayachandran found the Minister guilty of criminal misconduct under the PCA and his wife guilty of abetment.

Justice Jayachandran pointed out that the trial court had erred in considering the Minister and his wife as two separate entities and accepting the income tax returns filed by her after the registration of the disproportionate assets case as its sole ground to acquit both of them. He stated that the trial court's decision to accept the self-serving tax declaration was patently erroneous and contrary to the evidence on record.

After pronouncing his verdict, Justice Jayachandran directed the two convicts to be present in the court on Thursday, December 21, to give them an opportunity for a hearing before taking a call on the punishment to be imposed on them.

Navy rescues injured crew member from hijacked ship

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy has rendered assistance in the evacuation of an injured crew member from the hijacked merchant vessel *m.v. Ruen* in the early hours of Monday.

"The injured crew member sustained injuries during the piracy incident. Towards ensuring his safety, the ship was successful in ensuring his release by the hijackers," the Navy said in a statement on Tuesday. "The injured crew member was medically managed aboard the Naval ship."

The Malta-flagged tanker, with 18 crew onboard, sent a Mayday message on December 14 indicating boarding by approximately six unknown persons.

'Religious character' of a place of worship can be decided only in a trial, says Allahabad HC

NEWS ANALYSIS

The High Court points out that the 1991 Act has not defined the term 'religious character'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The reasoning of the Allahabad High Court in the Gyanvapi case order that the Places of Worship Act, 1991 is not an "absolute bar" on litigants from approaching courts to define the "religious character of any place of worship" or to seek their right as to a place of worship may open a Pandora's box.

The High Court pointed out that the 1991 Act has not defined the term "religious character".

The observations were made by the Bench of Justice Rohit Ranjan Agrawal, while rejecting a plea filed by Anjuman Intezamia Masajid Committee, which manages the Gyanvapi mosque. The committee had challenged the suits filed by the Hindu petitioners by claiming that such suits are prohibited by the Places of Worship Act (Special Provisions) Act, 1991.

"A place of worship cannot have a dual religious character at the same time, one of temple or of a mosque, which are adverse to each other. Either the place is a temple or a mosque," the High Court noted.

The "religious character" of a place of worship can be determined only in a trial, based on documentary and oral evidence, on a case-to-case basis.

Religious character cannot be confined in the limits of verbal terminology, as the 1991 Act has not defined the term 'religious character', it could only be decided by the facts and circumstances of each and every case," the High Court said.

The 1991 Act mandates that the religious identity of a place of worship, as it existed on August 15, 1947, should be retained.

However, the High Court referred to sub-section (3) (d) of Section 4 of the 1991 Act to reason that if the "conversion" of a religious place had taken place "much before" the commencement of the Act, acquiescence or silence would not bar a party from moving court.

In the Gyanvapi case, the Hindu plaintiffs claim that the entire area, including the Gyanvapi mosque site, belonged to a temple of Swayambhu Lord Adi Vishweshwar since *Satyuga*. They said the temple, was brought down by the "Farman of Emperor Aurangzeb in the year 1669", much before the commencement of the 1991 Act. The plaintiffs argue that the "religious character of the temple has not changed only by erecting the alleged mosque after the demolition of the temple by invaders".

"'Once a temple always a temple' is a judicially recognised principle of law," the High Court recorded the arguments of the Hindus in the order.

Petitions pending in SC

The High Court order has come even as a series of petitions challenging the validity of the provisions of the 1991 Act is pending in the Supreme Court.

Advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, one of the petitioners, said the Centre is yet to file an affidavit clarifying its stand on the Places of Worship Act. In August, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta had said the government required "a little more time".

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud had said it would not be possible to start the hearing without knowing the view of the government.

The petitions in the top court contend that the 1991 law has barred Hindus, Jains, Buddhists, and Sikhs from approaching courts to "re-claim" their places of worship which were "invaded" and "encroached" upon by "fundamentalist barbaric invaders".

Historic Science Congress in the lurch

The past few months have seen a new challenge emerge for the ISCA in the form of a deteriorating relationship with its chief benefactor, the Department of Science and Technology (DST). The ISCA is an "autonomous body" affiliated to the DST, meaning that it gets public funds from the latter. Being an organisation that predates the formation of the DST, the ISCA is a registered society and has a mandate of communicating and popularising science across India. For years, the organisation has conducted its activities and elected its members independently, said Ashok Kumar Saxena, an ISCA member and former president, noting that the DST's involvement has been limited to a representative sitting in on key meetings and being kept apprised of how its budget was spent. This year, however, the DST insisted on some significant changes: first, an alteration in ISCA's member-selection criteria; and second, a new DST-constituted committee, called the Executive Committee, to take charge of reviewing and selecting the papers and presentations to be presented at the forthcoming edition of the Science Congress.

"How can an unelected committee replace an elected committee? It's against the by-laws of the ISCA," said Mr. Ashok Saxena. "The DST said that it would not fund the Science Congress if the by-laws weren't implemented."

On September 25, the DST issued an order levelling serious allegations regarding the functioning of ISCA and charging that a "few members" had been making "unilateral decisions". On its part, the ISCA filed a writ petition in the Calcutta High Court challenging the DST order. At the hearing, the court asked both parties to resolve the issue via discussions.

Dhankhar upset as MP mimics him during protest

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday expressed disappointment at an act of senior Trinamool Congress MP Kalyan Banerjee mimicking him and its recording by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

Jagdeep Dhankar

During a protest in front of the new Parliament building, Mr. Banerjee mimicked Mr. Dhankhar and Mr. Gandhi filmed it on his mobile phone. Leader of the House and Union Minister Piyush Goyal and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi condemned the act, and said it is demeaning of not just the Chair of the House but also the farming and Jat communities to which Mr. Dhankhar belongs.

In a brief statement, Mr. Dhankhar said the Opposition was not aware of the kind of response against Parliament in the mind of the people and the country had the occasion to see an MP stooping to the lowest level.

Addressing senior Congress MP P. Chidambaram, he said: "Imagine what must be going through my heart when your senior leader videographs a Member of Parliament mocking the institution of Chairman, as an individual take on me."

DMK government failed to manage flood crisis in Tamil Nadu, says Piyush Goyal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The issue of heavy rain and floods in southern Tamil Nadu districts was raised in the Rajya Sabha during a debate on two Appropriation Bills on Tuesday. The Centre blamed the State government for not providing relief to people of the State.

Piyush Goyal

In his brief intervention, AIADMK leader M. Thambidurai said Tamil Nadu witnessed heavy rain and floods and requested the Centre to sanction funds to help people of the State.

Replying to this, Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal pointed to the "abject failure" of the DMK government in the State in managing the crisis. He said the State government failed to provide relief, succour, and rehabilitation to people reeling under the natural disaster.

Appropriation Bills

The Rajya Sabha returned the Appropriation Bills to the Lok Sabha after a brief discussion amid ruckus by the Opposition demanding a statement from Union Home Minister Amit Shah on the breach of Parliament security.

The Lok Sabha had passed the Bills to approve additional spending of ₹58,378 crore in the current financial year. Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said the gross additional spending will be ₹1.29 lakh crore, out of which ₹70,968 crore will be matched by savings and receipts. Additional expenditure includes ₹13,351 crore for fertilizer subsidies and about ₹7,000 crore towards food subsidies. He added that the other major allocations are for the energy sector and the MGNREGS. While ₹9,200 crore will be spent by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry, ₹14,524 crore will be provided to the Rural Development Ministry towards MGNREGS. For External Affairs, the amount is ₹20,000 crore.

Members from the BJP, the AIADMK, the BJD, the YSRCP and the TDP participated in the debate.

HC rejects plea to change exam date for PM's event

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Tuesday set aside a public interest litigation petition seeking deferment of the date of West Bengal Teachers Eligibility Test (TET) scheduled on December 24 on grounds that a "Gita chanting" programme to be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be held on the same day.

A Division Bench of Chief Justice T.S. Sivagnanam and Justice Hiranmay Bhattacharyya said that directions sought in the plea cannot be given. "It is submitted that 773 [examination] centres throughout the State of West Bengal and only five centres are in Kolkata. None of the five centresare in close proximity to the venue of the event," the Division Bench said.

Mamata proposes Mallikarjun Kharge as INDIA bloc's prime ministerial face

While Bengal CM opted to project Congress president as India's first Dalit Prime Minister, the Congress veteran asserted that he has never used his Dalit identity; the fourth meeting of the INDIA bloc meeting agreed to hold joint protests on Friday against the mass suspension of MPs

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Amid suggestions at the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) meeting here on Tuesday that the bloc finalise its seat-sharing by December 31, West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee proposed Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge as the prime ministerial face of the alliance.

"He can be India's first Dalit Prime Minister," Ms. Banerjee was quoted as saying by a senior leader.

When Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Admi Party (AAP) convener Arvind Kejriwal endorsed the Congress chief's name as the first Dalit prime ministerial choice, Mr. Kharge intervened to assert that he had never used his Dalit identity.

Key meet: INDIA leaders (from left) Sitaram Yechury, Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, T. R. Baalu and D. Raja at a press conference after the bloc meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

At a press conference to convey the decisions of INDIA, Mr. Kharge said the decision on prime ministerial candidate will be taken after the polls.

Sources told *The Hindu* that Ms. Banerjee also suggested the name of Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra to contest against Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Varanasi. However, there was no decision on any of these proposals.

The fourth meeting of the INDIA bloc was attended by 28 parties and it went on for over two hours. It agreed to hold joint protests on December 22 against the mass suspension of Opposition MPs during the Winter Session of Parliament.

The INDIA bloc also adopted a resolution that expressed doubts about the electronic voting machines (EVMs) and suggested that voter verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT) slips should be hand over to the voters. "Instead of the VVPAT slip falling in the box, it should be handed over to the voter who shall then place it in a separate ballot box after having verified his or her choice. 100% counting of VVPAT slips should then be done," the resolution said.

At the closed-door meeting, sources said, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi asked if anyone in the room had faith in the EVMs, but everyone stayed silent.

Many of the top leaders including Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, his Tamil Nadu counterpart and DMK chief M.K. Stalin, Rashtriya Janata Dal patriach Lalu Prasad, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, Shiv Sena (Thackeray) chief Uddhav Thackeary, Ms. Banerjee and Mr. Kejriwal did not attend the press conference unlike previous meetings.

Besides Mr. Kharge, Mr. Gandhi, NCP leader Sharad Pawar, National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury and CPI general secretary D. Raja were among the senior leaders who were present at press conference.

Tuesday's meeting saw an in-principle agreement that a group of top leaders from the Congress, Trinamool, DMK, AAP, JD(U), RJD, Shiv Sena, NCP, CPI (M), JMM and RJD will oversee the seat sharing.

Sources said the Trinamool stressed that while regional players will support the Congress in over 300 Lok Sabha seats, it [the Congress] should take a back seat in States such as Uttar Pradesh, where the Samajwadi Party should take the lead, Punjab and Delhi, ruled by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), and West Bengal.

(With inputs from Sobhana K. Nair)

Gehlot, Baghel on Congress's National Alliance Committee

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Partnerships with INDIA allies have become a prickly topic for the party

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge announced a five-member National Alliance Committee on Tuesday, just before the meeting of the INDIA bloc got under way. The panel comprises party veterans Ashok Gehlot, Salman Khurshid, Bhupesh Baghel, Mukul Wasnik, and Mohan Prakash.

"In the run-up to the General Elections-2024, Hon'ble Congress President has constituted a National Alliance Committee...," party general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal said in a statement.

The timing of the announcement is significant as it came just before the meeting of the top leaders of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) in the capital.

Alliances have become a contentious issue within the party, with former Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Kamal Nath having refused to share any seats with the Samajwadi Party (SP) in the recent Assembly election, which the party lost.

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav had threatened to walk out of the INDIA bloc, but Mr. Kharge is learnt to have reached out to him.

Partnerships with other INDIA allies have also become a prickly topic. In Punjab and Delhi, the State Congress units have opposed any tie-up with the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). Similarly, in Kerala, the Congress cannot hope to have an alliance with the Left Democratic Front; in Uttar Pradesh, on the other hand, the SP has expressed reservations about giving away too many seats to the Congress.

As Lok Sabha election draws near, Modi launches survey on NaMo app

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

In a move similar to one in 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday launched the "Jan Man Survey" on the NaMo app with exhaustive questions on the performance of his government and that of local representatives.

The app, which is at the forefront of Mr. Modi's digital interaction with people, has more than two crore subscribers.

The Prime Minister had conducted similar surveys in 2016 (right after demonetisation), in the run-up to the 2019 Lok Sabha election, and before the Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal in 2022.

Following up

According to sources in the government, after the BJP's loss in the Assembly elections in the three big Hindi-speaking States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh in 2018, a survey resulted in the launch of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, an income support scheme for farmers; reservation for the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) among the general category; and other campaign ideas.

The Constitution 103rd (Amendment) Bill for EWS quota was cleared in January 2019 and implemented that year, a move that consolidated the support of communities under the general category behind the BJP.

"This entire phase, like early 2019, will see heightened political activity, as well as new campaign ideas," said a source, adding that a lot would emanate from the findings of the current survey.

The questions range from the general (on schemes and so on) to the particular (popularity of an MP or an MLA and reasons for voting).

In fact, based on various feedback mechanisms, including these surveys on the NaMo app, the BJP had changed 35% of its first-time MPs in 2019 and refielded 173 of its 268 Lok Sabha members.

As the 2024 Lok Sabha election draws near, Mr. Modi is hewing close to his base for his best ideas.

Hindi-English dissonance at INDIA meet

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Bihar Chief Minister and Janata Dal(U) president Nitish Kumar lost his cool when DMK Lok Sabha leader T. R. Baalu asked for a translation of his Hindi speech during the INDIA meeting here on Tuesday.

In the previous three meetings of the bloc, RJD leader Manoj K. Jha had translated the speeches of Mr. Kumar and his own party patriarch, Lalu Prasad, into English. It is learnt that after Mr. Kumar's speech ended this time, Mr. Baalu asked Mr. Jha to translate it. Before Mr. Jha could do so, Mr. Kumar, according to sources, snapped at the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) leadership. Hindi, he said, as per sources, is the national language and everyone should be able to understand it. His tirade went on for a few minutes, as per sources, as he launched into details of the Freedom Struggle and the imposition of English. Several leaders stepped in to calm him. But no translation was done even when Mr. Prasad spoke.

DMK president and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin was the first speaker after Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge. Mr. Kumar spoke after Mr. Stalin. Sources said that as if to compensate for Mr. Kumar's uncalled-for outburst, the later speakers like Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who usually speaks Hindi, switched to English.

Mr. Stalin, it is learnt, ticked off the Congress for going solo in the recent Assembly elections. He met Mr. Kejriwal before the INDIA meet.

Opposition's 'antics' will ensure that its Lok Sabha strength will fall in 2024: PM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amid the mass suspension of Opposition MPs from both Houses of Parliament, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told BJP MPs that the behaviour of Opposition members had ensured that they may not return to the Lok Sabha "even in their current strength".

Addressing the BJP's Parliamentary Party meet on Monday, before another set of 49 Lok Sabha MPs were suspended from the House, Mr. Modi said that some (referring to the Opposition) were "not destined to do constructive work".

Speaking to the media after the meeting was over, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi said that the Prime Minister had, in the closed-door meeting, also expressed concern over what he termed "attempts" to justify the security breach in Parliament on December 13. "Prime Minister Modi said that this is as worrisome as the incident itself," Mr. Joshi said.

Wayanad MP and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had earlier said that the breach in Parliament's security last week was due in part to Indian youth's inability to find employment because of the current government's policies.

Mr. Modi is also said to have urged BJP MPs not to get distracted by dramatic moves of the Opposition, to work according to the Constitution, and to respect the mandate of the people.

The remarks attain significance against the background of repeated demands by the Opposition, reiterated on Tuesday, of a statement to be made on the floor of both Houses of Parliament by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on the security breach in Parliament. As of Wednesday, there were only 47 MPs left in the Lok Sabha representing the Opposition.

TENDER CALL NOTICE
JOINT DIRECTOR, FROZEN SEMEN BANK, KHAPURIA, CUTTACK
E.Mail-jdfsbctc@gmail.com . Tel. no.-0671-2344532
EOI No.3346 Dated 04.12.2023
In pursuance to EOI No. 3346 /dated 04.12.2023 , The Joint Director, Frozen semen Bank, Khapuria, Cuttack invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for intending Farms/Organizations/Agencies for supply of Liquid Nitrogen for FROZEN SEMEN BANK, KHAPURIA, CUTTACK.
The details of the Expression of Interest (Non-transferable) as well as terms and conditions and information docket are available on the DAH & VS, Odisha website **https://dahvs.gov.in & https://cuttack.nic.in**. Interested parties are requested to download the required documents and submit their response to the undersigned at the above-mentioned address along with the cost of the EOI document of **Rs.5900/-** (including GST @ 18%) in shape of Bank Draft drawn in favour of the **"Joint Director, Frozen Semen Bank, Cuttack"**.
The EOI documents must be deposited within date **16.01.2024 till 5 Pm.**
Sd/- JOINT DIRECTOR, FROZEN SEMEN BANK, KHAPURIA, CUTTACK
M-88: OIPR-06080/11/0001/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : SUNDARGARH
AT/PO-SANKARA, SUNDARGARH-770020, E-mail address-serw_sundargarh@yahoo.com
No.Tender Online – RWCCESNG-48 of 2023-24, Letter No.3807 /Dtd.18.12.2023
e-Procurement NOTICE
1. Type of the Work : Road (SACI)
2. Class of Contractor : As specified in the column-6 of the Annexure
3. Time of Completion : As specified in the column-5 of the Annexure
4. Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached
5. Estimated Cost : As specified in the column-4 of the Annexure
6. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh	RWCCESNG-48 of 2023-24	22.12.2023 11:00 AM	04.01.2024 5:00 PM	03.01.2024 5:00 PM	05.01.2024 11:00 AM	Will be intimated separately

● Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh.
O-1953 : OIPR-25133/11/0068/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA - DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER,
EASTERN CIRCLE-I, CANTONMENT ROAD, CUTTACK.
Email id :- seeccuttack@gmail.com
'e' Procurement Notice No. ACE,EC-I/36 of 2023-24 (On-line)
1. Name of Work : Improvement to Distributary No.19 (Main) of Machhagaon Canal System. Bid identification No.ACE, EC-I JID 20 of 2023-24
2. Total No of Work : 1 (One) No. work
3. Tender Paper Cost (Online) (Non-refundable) : Rs.10,000.00 (Ten thousand)
4. Bid details are as follows :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Tender Cost (Rs.in Lakh) (Approx.)	EMD (On-line) (in Rs.)	Class of Contra-ctor	Period of Comple-tion	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	To	Date of Opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I)
Additional Chief Engineer, Eastern Circle-I, Cuttack	ACE, EC-I JID 20 of 2023-24	798	7,98,000.00	'A' & 'Special'	11 (Eleven) Calendar months	28.12.2023 at 10.00 hrs.	11.01.2024 upto 17.30 hrs.	12.01.2024 at 11.30 hrs.

Other terms and conditions can be seen from the Govt. website "**www.tendersodisha.gov.in**".
All corrigendum / cancellation of tender if any, will only be uploaded in the above web site.
Additional Chief Engineer, Eastern Circle-I, Cuttack.
A-1035: OIPR-32370/11/0045/2324

UNIVERSITY OF HYDERABAD
(A Central University established in 1974 by an Act of Parliament)
P.O. Central University, Prof. C.R. Rao Road, Gachibowli, Hyderabad - 500 046.
Employment Notification for Director, DIA-CoE UoH
Applications are invited from Indian citizens for the post of **Director, DIA-CoE UoH**. For complete details, visit the University Website **https://uohyd.ac.in/non-teaching-project-staff/**
Place: Hyderabad, Date : 14.12.2023 Sd/- REGISTRAR

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
Office of the Chief Engineer TENDER NOTICE
ADV No.80/D3/CE/TTD/2023 -24 & NIT No.304/SE-II/TTD/2023-24 Dt:19/12/2023
Name of Work:1) Widening of existing 2 lane road to 4 lane from Akasaganga to ORR at Tirumala, Amount Rs.4000 Lakhs, Time for completion 12 months.
NOTE: For full details log on to the website **https://www.tirumala.org.**
Roc.No.PR4/13961/Adv.No.305/PRO/2023, Dated:19-12-2023 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Regd. Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata - 700 091
CIN: U40109WB2007SGC113473, www.wbsedcl.in
WBSEDCL
Request For Proposals
e-Tender-cum-e-Reverse Auction No.: **WBSEDCL/PT&P/e-NIT/05/2023**, **Date: 20.12.2023** is invited by the **Chief Engineer (PT&P)**, **WBSEDCL**, Vidyut Bhavan, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700091, for purchase of power on Short-Term Basis for the period from 1st April-2024 to 30th June-2024, through Traders/Licensees/Bidders. Interested parties may download the tender documents from the website https://www.mstcecommerce.com directly with the help of Digital Signature Certificate from **11:00 hrs.** of **20.12.2023** and submit the same on or before **17:00 hrs.** of **29.12.2023**.
For details, visit **www.wbsedcl.in** ICA- T25878(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
(www.kpwd.gov.in)
Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Bangalore Division, 2nd Floor, PWD Annexure Building, K.R. Circle, Bangalore - 01
Telephone No. 080-22133370,
Email ID: eepwdbngdn@yahoo.com
E-Portal : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home
Short Term Tender Notification No. 10/2023-24
Dated- 16.12.2023
Item-rate tenders, for the work in **ANEKAL Sub Division** under this office noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents for procurement of works from the contractors registered in K.P.W.D. as per KPPP Tender Notification are Published for 01 work **(Rs. 731.00 Lakhs)** Details of the tender works can be obtained from the above Office during office hours on working days. EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in KPPP portal. Eligible contractors interested in tendering for the work may apply for the tender through e-procurement.
1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPPP portal of the Government of Karnataka from Dated: **18.12.2023** onwards.
2) Tenders must be submitted online through KPPP portal on or before **16:00** hours on dated **26.12.2023**
3) The opening of tenders through KPPP portal on dated **27.12.2023** at **16.30** hours or further date and time will be Intimate.
For more details contact this office.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
DIPR/CP/2631/Zen/2023-24 PWD, Bangalore Division, Bangalore.

राष्ट्रीय पृथ्वी विज्ञान अध्ययन केंद्र
NATIONAL CENTRE FOR EARTH SCIENCE STUDIES
पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India
Akkulam, Thiruvananthapuram -11
No: NCESS/P&GA/9467/09/2023 **Date: 15.12.2023**
RECRUITMENT
NCESS invites online applications from eligible Indian citizens for appointment to the post of Project Associate I on contract basis initially for a period of one year. Please visit website for details. Further changes, if any, will be notified through website only.
Website: www.ncess.gov.in/Phone:0471-2511500.
Sd/- Senior Manager

Doctor Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar (MP)
(A Central University)
The **32nd Convocation** of Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar, MP will be held on **09 February, 2024.** All Graduate, Post Graduate, Ph.D., D.Sc. and D.Litt. candidates (Regular) are requested to register themselves online for the award of Degree in the Convocation at University Website **www.dhsgsu.edu.in** or **dhsgu.mponline.gov.in** from **21 December, 2023** to **15 January, 2024**. Details can be seen on University Web Portal **www.dhsgsu.edu.in**
Controller of Examinations (I/c)

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)
BRIEF TENDER CANCEL NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement)
BESCOM tender enquiry No.: BESCOM/CGM(OP)/DGM(EV)/BC-53/2023-24/ENQ-5 to ENQ-26 dated: 19.10.2023 for "Setting up EV Charging Stations at Government owned premises under PPP model-22 LOTs" is hereby cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances.
Sd/-
Chief General Manager, Operations, Corporate Office, BESCOM
For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download "BESCOM Mithra" Mobile APP

एसजेवीएन ग्रीन एनर्जी लिमिटेड
SJVN Green Energy Limited
(A Wholly Owned Subsidiary of SJVN Limited)
CIN: U40100HP2022GOI009237
E- Tender No.: SGEL/CHQ/Contracts/Wind/2023
This is to notify to all prospective bidders that SJVN Green Energy Limited has made amendments in Minimum Qualifying Requirements in the Bid Document for **"Development of ISTS-Connected Wind Power Project(s) upto capacity of 300 MW anywhere in India and their Comprehensive O&M for Five Years".**
Detailed Amendments available on **www.sjvn.nic.in**; **www.bharat-electronictender.com** and **www.eprocure.gov.in**. Last date of Bid Submission has also been **EXTENDED** upto **02.01.2024 (14:00 hrs)**.
DGM (Contracts)
SJVN Green Energy Limited,
Corporate Headquarters, Shakti Sadan Shanan, Shimla (H.P).
Email- **contracts.sgel@sjvn.nic.in**

INBRIEF

39 'foreigners' illegally settled in Jammu held, say police

The Jammu & Kashmir Police on Tuesday detained nearly 39 people in a major crackdown on Rohingya and Bangladeshis living in several districts of the Jammu region. Over 40 places were searched in Jammu, Rajouri, Poonch, Doda and Kishtwar districts. "Nearly 30 searches were conducted in Jammu district. Nearly 39 people have been detained for questioning. The police are trying to identify the aiders and abettors involved in illegal settlement of these foreigners," Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Jammu, Anand Jain said in Jammu. The police claimed it recovered land sale deeds, Aadhar cards, bank passbooks, voter cards, mobile SIM cards etc. from several arrested foreign nationals.

HC grants bail to Navlakha but stays order for 3 weeks

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday granted bail to activist Gautam Navlakha, arrested in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case. A Division Bench headed by Justice A.S. Gadkari said Mr. Navlakha's plea seeking bail was "allowed". The National Investigation Agency urged the court to stay the operation of the order for six weeks so that it could file an appeal in the Supreme Court. The Bench stayed the order for three weeks. Mr. Navlakha, who was arrested in August 2018, was in November last year permitted by the Supreme Court to be placed under house arrest. The High Court granted Navlakha bail on a surety of ₹1 lakh. PTI

'No job quota for people with blood disorders'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

People with blood disorders such as thalassemia, haemophilia and sickle cell disease are not eligible for reservation in government jobs under the Persons with Disabilities category, the Social Justice Ministry told Parliament on Tuesday.

The three diseases were included on the list of disabilities under the Right to Persons with Disabilities Act of 2016, which had led activists to believe at the time that benefits such as reservation would follow. Activists say it defeats the entire purpose of having included them on the list.

Minister of State for Social Justice Pratima Bhoumik said that under Section 34 of the law, "persons with blood disorders including Thalassemia are not eligible for reservation in jobs in government establishments".

The Centre said the 4% quota in government jobs was available for those with no vision and low vision; no hearing and low hearing; locomotor disability, including cerebral palsy; leprosy cured; dwarfism; muscular dystrophy; autism, and intellectual disability; acid attack victims; and others.

Netanyahu calls Modi to discuss maritime threat in Red Sea

The Israeli side started the call, says PMO; situation in Bab el-Mandeb has been worrying companies after Houthis' attack on container ships

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Vital discussion: Narendra Modi and S. Jaishankar held several rounds of talks with stakeholders since the conflict began. AP

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held a telephone discussion on the escalating threats to maritime security in the Red Sea because of the actions of Houthi militants of Yemen. The conversation came soon after the Pentagon announced an international mission to counter the growing number of attacks against Israel-bound international traffic.

"Had a productive exchange of views with PM Netanyahu on the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict, including shared concerns on the safety of maritime traffic. Highlighted India's consistent stand in favour of early restoration of peace and stability in the region with continued humanitarian assistance for the affected," Mr. Modi said in a message.

A statement from the Prime Minister's Office said that the Israeli side had initiated the telephone conversation. Mr. Modi and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar have held multiple rounds of conversations with regional stakeholders since the conflict began in October.

The situation in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait has been worrying shipping companies after several attacks by Houthi rebels on container ships. These attacks have prompted several major international companies to hold ships from venturing in the strait that separates Yemen from eastern Africa.

"This is an international challenge that demands collective action. Therefore, today I am announcing the establishment of Operation Prosperity Guardian, an important new multinational security initiative," U.S. Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin said after the launch of the coalition that includes the U.K., Bahrain, Canada, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, and the Seychelles, apart from the U.S. The United States has called upon the UN Security Council to act against the Houthi militants.

Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra had earlier said that India was "constantly monitoring" the situation concerning security of the shipping containers.

House panel doubts Centre's data on lumpy skin disease

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Doctor vaccinating a cow who has been infected with lumpy skin disease. PTI

Questioning the Union Animal Husbandry Ministry's data that more than two lakh cattle and buffaloes had died by lumpy skin disease in 2022 and 2023, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing said there was a gap/mismatch in the number of cattle affected and dead, and the actual realities.

The panel said accurate data would have helped in understanding the gravity of the situation, and in controlling and containing the disease.

It recommended that the Centre ensure proper compilation of data on the spread of infection and mortality of cattle from the disease.

The panel said deaths of cattle had resulted in severe economic hardship to farmers and cattle owners. The Centre did not have any scheme to compensate for cattle losses due to spread of disease, the panel noted. It asked the Centre to make necessary provisions for compensating farmers.

The disease was spread in 23 States, and Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Karnataka saw the most number of deaths when compared with the rest of the country. A total of 1,85,841 cattle died as on February 2023, while 32,73,762 were infected and 30,30,747 recovered. As many as 8,81,77,649 cattle were vaccinated. In 2023, 22,313 more deaths were reported.

The committee noted that Biovet Private Limited, Malur, Bengaluru; Indian Immunological, Hyderabad; and Institute of Veterinary Biological Products, Pune had secured the vaccine technology from the National Research Centre on Equines (NRCE), Hisar to manufacture indigenous homologous live attenuated LSD vaccine (LumpiProVacInd).

HC adjourns Mahua's petition against eviction from govt. residence to Jan. 4

Soibam Rocky Singh
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court said on Tuesday that it would hear on January 4 a petition filed by Trinamool Congress leader Mahua Moitra challenging the cancellation of her government accommodation in New Delhi. The court said that it would wait for January 3, when the Supreme Court is scheduled to hear Ms. Moitra's plea against her expulsion from the Lok Sabha.

Earlier this month, Ms. Moitra was expelled from the Lok Sabha over cash-for-query allegations. The Trinamool MP was accused of taking bribes, including expensive gifts, from the Dubai-based businessman Darshan Hiranandani in return for asking questions in Parliament.

Following her expulsion, Ms. Moitra received a

Mahua Moitra

notice to vacate her official residence within 30 days by January 7.

After moving the Supreme Court against her expulsion, she moved the High Court challenging the cancellation of her government accommodation and notice to vacate the house.

During the brief hearing on Tuesday, the High Court said if the Supreme Court decided on her application, "consequence will follow". However, the High Court said if it passed any order at this stage, "it will directly impinge on the matter pending before the Supreme Court".

With the Supreme Court scheduled to take up Ms. Moitra's plea after it reopens after the winter break on January 3, the High Court has adjourned the hearing on her plea against eviction on January 4.

The court also took into consideration the fact that Ms. Moitra had time till January 7 before being ousted from the government accommodation.

In her plea, Ms. Moitra has urged the court for a direction to allow her to retain possession of the accommodation till the results of the 2024 Lok Sabha election are declared.

She has challenged the December 11 order of the Directorate of Estates for eviction on the ground that the validity of her expulsion from the Lok Sabha is pending adjudication before the Supreme Court. "In such circumstances – where whether the petitioner is an 'unauthorised occupant' at all is under adjudication before the highest constitutional court of the land – the respondent no. 1 (Directorate of Estates), as an executing authority, cannot initiate proceedings under the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act 1971 for evicting the petitioner," the plea said.

"It is only once the petitioner's claim over rightfully occupying the government accommodation is duly adjudicated, does the question of the estate office's/ respondent no. 1's jurisdiction arises," it said.

The plea said she was living alone in Delhi and had no alternative accommodation here and, if evicted from her government accommodation, she would have to fulfil the duties of campaigning while also trying to find a new residence.

VHP-RSS leaders meet Advani, Joshi; invite them for Ram temple ceremony

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

A day after Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust's general secretary and senior Vishva Hindu Parishad leader Champat Rai said that he had requested L.K. Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi "not to attend" the consecration ceremony at the Ram temple in Ayodhya considering their advanced age, senior VHP and Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh leaders said on Tuesday that they had invited the veteran BJP leaders.

VHP working president Alok Kumar and senior RSS leaders Ram Lal and Krishna Gopal met Mr. Advani and invited him.

The VHP released a picture of Mr. Kumar and others meeting Mr. Joshi at his residence and handing over the invite. The picture was released a day after

Earlier, VHP leader Champat Rai's remarks of requesting Advani and Joshi not to attend the event had caused controversy. FILE PHOTO

their visit.

Mr. Advani and Mr. Joshi were at the forefront of the Ram temple movement.

In a statement after the meetings, Mr. Kumar said in a post on X, "Invited Lal Krishna Advani *ji* and Murli Manohar Joshi *ji*, the pioneers of Ram Mandir movement, to attend the *Pran Pratishtha* ceremony of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya on January 22, 2024. Both the seniors said that they will make every effort to come."

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Kumar said that he, on behalf of the entire VHP family, had requested that the two leaders "must attend" the ceremony.

"Advani *ji*'s daughter was concerned about the logistics of his travel to Ayodhya which is natural considering his age. We told them that the VHP will try and arrange whatever is required to make his visit comfortable," he said.

On Monday, Mr. Rai had said, "Advani *ji*'s presence is necessary, but I don't want him to come."

He repeated it for Mr. Joshi as well, and said both BJP veterans were "too old" to travel in harsh winter.

Reacting to the controversy that erupted over Mr. Rai's statement, Mr. Kumar said his words were blown out of context.

"We couldn't have imagined the Ram temple movement without Joshi *ji* and Advani *ji*. Champat Rai *ji* was only concerned about the health of the leaders," he added.

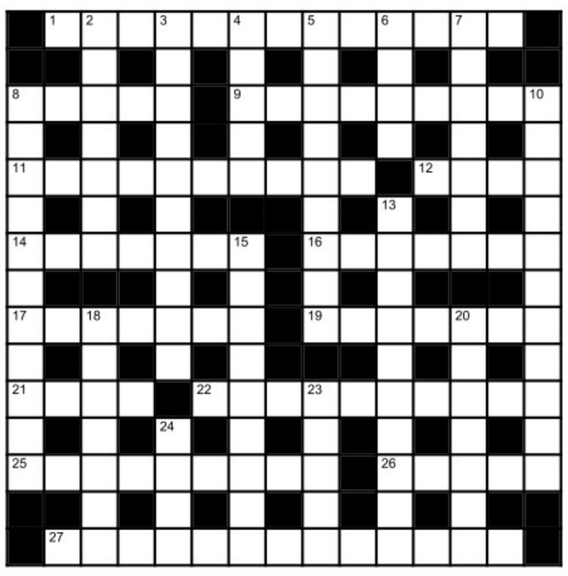
Speaking about the other invitees, Mr. Kumar said the chiefs of all Opposition parties were being invited. From the Congress, Sonia Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury will be invited.

TH CROSSWORD + 14050

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Play with fool in tourney? No way! (3,2,4,4)
8 Curses a sot tottering outside hotel (5)
9 Engineer secures most fancy type of lens (4-5)
11 Clash with criminal chased by detective in plot (10)
12 Clubs missing in worthless stack (4)
14 Royal duo largely abandoned venerated woman (3,4)
16 Conscript in river grabs floating structure (7)
17 Capitol riots, newsworthy (7)
19 Rush to get one short dress and colourful African shirt (7)
21 Husband ignored problem resulting in irritation (4)
22 Hold on, dear! Perhaps turn this to enter (4,6)
25 Catching girl about to steal son's phone (9)
26 Smallest meadow beside street (5)
27 Why seamstress could not sew? Stopped concentrating (4,3,6)

Down

2 Trained for NEET more regularly (7)
3 Serve bacon salad in ceremony (10)
4 Stunned after yacht initially swerved off course (5)
5 Unsettled by wife leaving, dude winced painfully (9)
6 Charge youth pocketing ring (4)
7 Improvisation by FBI agents involved in attack (7)
8 Refashioned coronet with diamonds a few times (4,2,5)
10 Need sex trip organised for former leader (2-9)
13 American jazz pianist played after small whiskey, entertaining everyone (4,6)
15 Cry out primarily with hunger, getting slightly jaundiced (9)
18 Famous painter's representation of spacious university released (7)
20 Popular princess in American state (7)
23 Good doctor, extremely honest (5)
24 Run diamonds and finesse (4)

SUDOKU

1	4					3		
	6			1	9	4		
		8					7	1
		6			3	1		
				6				
		4	9			8		
4	7					2		
		5	6	2			8	
		2					5	3

No.SS6013 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

S	U	N	S	H	A	D	E	■	T	O	E	C	A	P
I	■	E	■	I	■	O	■	C	■	P	■	O	■	A
C	H	E	N	G	D	U	■	L	A	C	U	N	A	R
I	■	D	■	H	■	B	■	O	■	I	■	S	■	T
L	I	L	A	C	■	L	E	A	S	T	W	I	S	E
Y	■	E	■	L	■	E	■	K	■	■	■	S	■	R
■	■	■	M	A	N	S	L	A	U	G	H	T	E	R
C	■	S	■	S	■	T	■	N	■	I	■	S	■	E
L	O	N	G	S	T	A	N	D	I	N	G	■	■	■
I	■	O	■	■	■	N	■	D	■	O	■	N	■	R
N	E	W	S	M	E	D	I	A	■	R	H	O	N	E
I	■	B	■	E	■	A	■	G	■	M	■	D	■	S
C	H	A	T	T	E	R	■	G	O	O	D	I	S	H
A	■	L	■	R	■	D	■	E	■	U	■	C	■	O
L	O	L	L	E	D	■	B	R	A	S	H	E	S	T

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	2	7	9	6	4	3	5	8
6	3	4	7	5	8	1	9	2
9	8	5	1	2	3	6	4	7
7	6	9	3	1	2	4	8	5
8	4	3	5	7	9	2	1	6
2	5	1	8	4	6	9	7	3
4	7	2	6	8	1	5	3	9
5	9	6	4	3	7	8	2	1
3	1	8	2	9	5	7	6	4

FAITH

The only way

The thousand names of the Lord, narrated by Bhishma in the war of Kurukshetra, and known as the Vishnu Sahasranamam to all, is unique. There is no end to its efficacy. There is not a single undesirable characteristic in Him, rather He is the epitome of all that is right and just. Chanting Vishnu Sahasranamam and singing His praise is the only way to attain everything, His Holiness Srirangam Srimad Andavan (Srimushnam) Srivaraha Mahadesikan said in a discourse.

Vishnu Sahasranamam is one of the most nuanced renderings, with subtle, deep, and highly philosophical interpretations. In its literal form, it dovetails bhakti marg with mukhti marg.

"Paramam yo Mahateja Paramam yo Mahattapa paramam yo maahad brahma par manya parayanam" says Bhishma. "That which is the greatest light, that which is the greatest penance, that which is the greatest brahmam, is the greatest shelter that I know" – the prayer is so powerful that it can be chanted even when one is unwell, since Vishnu namam is the ultimate medicine. Chanting the lines, "Sri Rama Rama rameti rame rame manorame; Sahasranama tat tulyam ramanama varanane" is also highly recommended. The best dharma in life is to chant Vishnu Sahasranamam and serve others, in His name.

INBRIEF

'Airlines likely to prune losses to ₹3,000-5,000 cr. this fiscal'

The Indian airline industry is expecting to prune its net losses to ₹3,000-5,000 crore in this fiscal from an estimated ₹17,000-17,500 crore in FY2023 on the back of improved yields and stable cost environment, credit ratings agency ICRA said on Tuesday. ICRA also estimated that domestic air passenger traffic will expand by 8-13% each in FY24 and FY25. The rating agency has also maintained its stable outlook on the industry in view of healthy passenger traffic. PTI

Karur Vysya Bank, HDFC Life enter corporate agency tie-up

Karur Vysya Bank and HDFC Life have entered into a corporate agency agreement to offer life insurance products to their customers. This arrangement would enable customers of Karur Vysya Bank to avail HDFC Life's wide range of life insurance products, according to a press release on Tuesday. "Since HDFC Life offers claim intimation process online, our customers can avail the services without stepping out of their homes," KVB MD & CEO B Ramesh Babu said. PTI

'Need to increase per capita income to upgrade economy'

Bandhan Bank managing director Chandra Shekhar Ghosh on Tuesday said there is a need to increase per capita income to to achieve $5 trillion size or make India the third-largest economy in the world. The per capita income of the fifth-largest economy, as per government data, stood at ₹98,374 in 2022-23. India ranks 130th globally in terms of Human Development Index comprising per capital income, education and health parameters. PTI

States can borrow an extra ₹2 lakh crore this fiscal year

Centre allows 22 States to raise additional borrowings of about ₹61,000 cr. for meeting pension liabilities by NPS contributions; States can also raise ₹1.43 lakh cr. tied to power sector reforms

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

States may be able to tap about ₹2.04 lakh crore as additional borrowings over their net borrowing limits for the year, the Finance Ministry indicated on Tuesday.

The Centre had allowed 22 States to raise additional borrowings of almost ₹61,000 crore this year on top of their net borrowing ceilings of 3% of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), as of October 27, the Ministry said .

Borrowing leeway

States may be able to borrow about ₹2.04 lakh cr. over their net borrowing limits for the year, Finance Ministry indicates

- Govt. had allowed 22 States to borrow almost ₹61,000 crore on top of net borrowing ceilings of 3% of GSDP, as of October 27
- Fifteenth Finance Commission mooted additional borrowing space of 0.5% of States' GSDP as performance-based incentive for power sector reforms

The extra borrowing ceiling was granted to States who met their pension liabilities by making required contributions to the National Pension System (NPS), which oversees the retirement savings of government employees since 2004.

Moreover, States are eligible to raise a little more than ₹1.43 lakh crore this year, based on the recommendations of the Ministry of Power.

This is linked to the Fifteenth Finance Commission's (FFC) suggestion to grant States an additional borrowing space of 0.5% of GSDP as a performance-based incentive for carrying out reforms in the power sector that improve operational and economic efficiency at the State level.

Taxpayers can withdraw court cases, 'approach GST Tribunals for faster rulings'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Taxpayers can withdraw their GST-related cases filed in High Courts and the Supreme Court and lodge them with the upcoming GST appellate tribunals so as to speed up their outcomes, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. The Parliament's Lower House subsequently passed amendments to the central GST law aimed at operationalising the tribunals at the earliest.

Ms. Sitharaman also indicated that every State will get two benches of the tribunal, which would include one in the State capital and the other in a key commercial hub based on States' inputs.

The Lok Sabha also cleared the Provisional Collection of Taxes Bill, 2023, which seeks to rein in speculative trading by giving immediate effect to impositions or hikes in customs and excise duties.

"Now that amendments are being moved for setting up the GST Appellate tribunals, the taxpayer is at liberty to withdraw from the Hight Courts and the Supreme Court and go to the tribunal that is being set up so that their cases can be speeded up," she said, referring to new tribunal benches that would come up in States with an Appellate body in New Delhi.

Sony yet to clear Zee's extension of deadline

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Sony Pictures Networks India (SPNI) on Tuesday said it had not agreed to any extension of the deadline as sought by Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. (ZEEL) citing contractual obligations.

"ZEE's notice to the Bombay Stock Exchange and the National Stock Exchange of India dated December 17 is an acknowledgement that they will not be able to meet the December 21, 2023, deadline to close the SPNI/ZEE merger," a spokesperson of SPNI said in a statement.

"The notice triggers an existing contractual provision in the deal that allows for both parties to discuss the possibility of extending the deadline. SPNI is required to start those conversations but has not yet agreed to a deadline extension," the Indian unit of the Japanese company said.

"We look forward to hearing ZEE's proposals and how they plan to complete the remaining critical closing conditions," the SPNI spokesperson added.

Shares of ZEEL declined 3.17% to close at ₹271.65 on the BSE on Tuesday.

RBI tightens norms for AIF investments

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has tightened norms for Regulated Entities (RE) like banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies to prevent evergreening of loans via investments in Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).

The regulator said though REs do make investments in units of AIFs as part of their regular investment operations, certain transactions of REs involving AIFs had raised regulatory concerns.

"In order to address

concerns relating to possible evergreening through this route, it is advised that REs shall not make investments in any scheme of AIFs which has downstream investments either directly or indirectly in a debtor company of the RE," the regulator said.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	71,437	0.17
US Dollar	83.18	-0.09
Gold	62,800	0.07
Brent oil	79.24	0.68

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2941.25	-39.35
Adani Ports	1074.00	-20.30
Apollo Hosp	5555.50	56.85
Asian Paints	3336.05	4.00
Axis Bank	1120.25	8.90
Bajaj Auto	6419.00	-46.70
Bajaj Finserv	1709.75	-14.85
Bajaj Finance	7632.65	45.05
Bharti Airtel	988.45	-1.80
BPCL	449.75	2.50
Britannia Ind	4911.25	31.75
Cipla	1237.10	20.30
Coal India	366.95	19.30
Divis Lab	3723.90	10.85
Dr Reddys Lab	5637.45	46.40
Eicher Motors	4039.65	-45.85
Grasim Ind	2118.25	8.50
HCL Tech	1488.30	-16.00
HDFC Bank	1652.90	-2.80
HDFC Life	666.05	-6.20
Hero MotoCorp	3821.85	-67.90
Hindalco	564.85	-1.55
Hind Unilever	2560.70	25.20
ICICI Bank	1015.45	-6.00
IndusInd Bank	1566.55	10.20
Infosys	1558.30	-6.05
ITC	456.10	4.45
JSW Steel	858.70	3.80
Kotak Bank	1846.55	-0.40
L&T	3498.95	7.35
LTIMindtree Ltd.	6112.75	-26.45
M&M	1699.35	-11.45
Maruti Suzuki	10233.60	-86.00
NestleIndia	25489.70	1135.45
NTPC	309.65	6.45
ONGC	200.30	1.30
PowerGrid Corp	233.55	1.70
Reliance Ind	2558.10	37.10
SBI Life	1424.55	-22.40
State Bank	655.40	6.90
Sun Pharma	1244.95	-7.80
TataConsumerProduct	966.15	16.45
Tata Motors	728.95	-1.85
Tata Steel	135.40	-1.20
TCS	3816.20	-43.00
Tech Mahindra	1281.45	-10.30
Titan	3610.45	-9.15
UltraTech Cement	10017.10	46.75
UPL	598.75	-7.80
Wipro	438.70	-6.55

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on December 19

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.98	83.30
Euro	90.79	91.14
British Pound	105.41	105.82
Japanese Yen (100)	57.31	57.54
Chinese Yuan	11.62	11.66
Swiss Franc	95.82	96.20
Singapore Dollar	62.27	62.52
Canadian Dollar	61.99	62.23
Malaysian Ringitt	17.73	17.80
Australian Dollar	55.83	56.05

Source:Indian Bank

'Sourcing FCI rice via OMSS may temper retail prices'

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

The Department of Food and Public Distribution's suggestion to processors and traders to source Food Corporation of India (FCI) rice under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) for sale to consumers is expected to help lower the retail price of rice.

The benefit of lower prices should be passed on expeditiously to consumers, the department told industry associations.

"There is a difference between the price at which rice mills are selling and the retail price," a rice miller said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "The government wants the retail price to be reduced."

SpiceJet expresses interest in Go First

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Budget carrier SpiceJet informed the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) that it has expressed interest in Go First, which is undergoing insolvency resolution under the direction of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).

"SpiceJet Limited has expressed interest with the Resolution Professional of Go First and wish to submit an offer post diligence, with a view to creating a strong and viable airline in a possible combination with SpiceJet," the airline said in its submission.

The airline has also requested the resolution professional to extend the deadline for submitting an offer which had expired without any financial bids being received.

SpiceJet, which has also been dragged to the NCLT by multiple lessors seeking its insolvency over pending dues and has nearly half of its fleet of 65 aircraft grounded, recently announced that its Board approved the raising of fresh capital of over ₹2,250 crore through the issuance of equity shares to financial institutions, FIIs, HNIs and private investors.

'India may import sugar as planting of cane wanes'

Reuters
SOLAPUR

India's sugar output this crop year, hit by weak rains, is set to lag consumption for the first time in seven years, according to traders and a survey of farmers, and lower plantings may force India to import in the following year.

Driven by falling yields, the sluggish outlook for the crop year that began in October reinforces expectations India will ban sugar exports in 2024.

Reuters' calculations based on the survey showed output could fall this crop year and next, in line with traders' internal forecasts. Consumption is expected to rise over the same period.

'Farm sector growth to slip below 1% in H2, feed food price pressures'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

With kharif crop yields dropping, foodgrain output set to hit a four-year low and rabi crop sowing significantly lagging last year's levels by mid-December, ICRA on Tuesday warned of a further slowdown in farm sector growth in the second half which could weaken rural demand and accentuate food price pressures.

"Amid delayed harvesting of paddy in some States, the cumulative rabi sowing trailed the year-ago levels by 5.1% as on Dec. 15 with crops like rice (-9.7%), wheat (-6.4%) and pulses (-8.2%) recording a steep lag over the year-ago levels," ICRA noted in a report on the farm sector. "This is likely to exert upward pressure on prices."

GVA growth from the agriculture sector may slip below 1% in the last two quarters of this year, from 1.2% in Q2, dragging the full year's growth under the 2% mark, compared with a 4% uptick in FY23, the firm's economists reckoned. The weak prospects for rabi crop output amid the El Nino effects, casts a shadow on rural sentiment and consumption demand going forward.

The first advance estimates of kharif output suggest foodgrain production slid 4.6% to a four-year low of 148.6 million tonne, with all kharif crops' output declining. Even crops that clocked an increase in their sown areas this year are expected to see a dip in output, including sugarcane (-11.4%), rice (-3.8%) and coarse cereals (-6.5%). "The decline in the output of most crops is larger than the fall in their area sown, reflecting a contraction in yields," they noted.

'Downside risks'

By December 15, about 77% of the total area sown in 2022, had been covered for the rabi crop.

A weaker rural economy also prompted the rating firm to add 'downside risks' to its forecast of a 0-2% growth in tractor sales for the year, after they declined 3.7% in the first half and 0.5% through October and November.

THE HINDU GROUP

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Instrumental

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https://newsth.live/MarghazhiMusicContest
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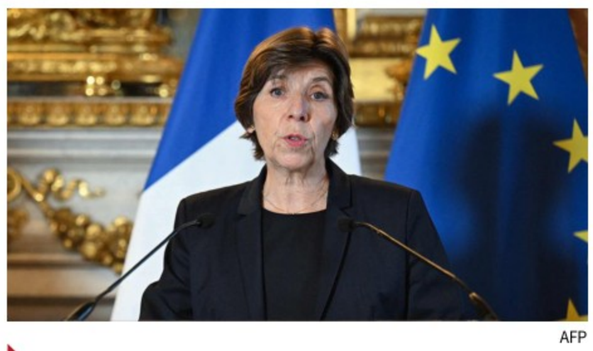
PARIS

France set to sanction extremist Israeli settlers in the West Bank



AFP

France is set to sanction certain extremist Israeli settlers, Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna said, denouncing "unacceptable" violence against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank. Ms. Colonna, who travelled to West Bank, said she was able to see for herself the violence committed by these extremist settlers. AFP

ISLAMABAD

Neither India, nor U.S. but 'we shot ourselves in our foot', says Sharif

REUTERS

Pakistan's former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said neither India nor the U.S. were behind the cash-strapped country's miseries but "we shot ourselves in our own foot", indirectly referring to the powerful military establishment for its woes. The 73-year-old leader castigated the judges for legitimising military dictators. PTI

LOS ANGELES

U.S. jury orders Monsanto to pay $857 mn over chemicals in school

REUTERS

A U.S. jury ordered chemical company Monsanto to pay $857 million to seven persons in a Washington school who said they fell sick due to chemicals leaking from light fittings. The ruling is the latest legal setback for Monsanto, which is fighting hefty legal bills after losing court cases over its glyphosate-based weedkiller Roundup. AFP

REYKJAWIK

Volcano erupts in southwest Iceland after weeks of earthquakes

AFP

A volcano erupted close to an Iceland power plant on Tuesday after weeks of intense seismic activity southwest of Reykjavik. The eruption only 3-km from the evacuated fishing port of Grindavik on the Reykjanes peninsula began on Monday at around 10:17 p.m. after an earthquake "swarm" of small tremors. AFP

U.S. launches multinational push to protect Red Sea from Houthi strikes

Houthis say they will not halt attacks in solidarity with Gaza, add that the U.S.-formed coalition aims at protecting Israel and militarise the sea; Washington promises to provide 'critical munitions, tactical vehicles and air defence systems' to Israel

Agence France Presse
Reuters
MANAMA/SANAA

Collective effort: U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin addresses U.S. forces in Manama in Bahrain on Tuesday. REUTERS

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin on Tuesday announced the creation of a multinational operation to safeguard commerce in the Red Sea following a series of missile and drone attacks by Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis.

Mr. Austin, who is on a trip to Bahrain, home to the U.S. Navy's headquarters in West Asia, said participating countries include the U.K., Bahrain, Canada, France, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Seychelles and Spain. The group will conduct joint patrols in the southern Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

In their response, Houthi rebels said they would not halt attacks on Red Sea shipping in solidarity with Gaza. "Even if America succeeds in mobilising the entire world, our military operations will not stop... no matter the sacrifices it costs us," senior Houthi official Mohammed al-Bukhaiti said on X, formerly Twitter.

Rebel spokesman Mohammed Abdul Salam said the "U.S.-formed coalition aims to protect Israel and militarise the sea," adding that "whoever seeks to expand the conflict must bear the consequences of those actions."

Mr. Austin. in a statement early on Tuesday, had said: "This is an international challenge that demands collective action. Therefore today I am announcing the establishment of Operation Prosperity Guardian, an important new multinational security initiative".

In a virtual meeting with Ministers from more than 40 nations, Mr. Austin called on other countries to contribute as he condemned "reckless Houthi actions."

"We're all here because many countries can directly contribute to our common efforts to keep strategic waterways safe," Mr. Austin said, according to prepared remarks.

Still, the announcement leaves many questions unanswered, including whether any additional countries are willing to do what mostly U.S. warships have done in recent days – shoot down Houthi missiles and drones, and rush to the aid of commercial ships under attack.

The U.S. Navy already had a Red Sea task force that had bolstered its presence in the critical waterway, and it is unclear how many countries will send additional ships or patrol aircraft following the creation of Operation Prosperity Guardian.

On his visit to Israel on Monday, Mr. Austin had also confirmed U.S. was "Israel's greatest friend" and would continue to provide "critical munitions, tactical vehicles and air defence systems".

Overnight earthquake in northwest China kills 126

Associated Press
BEIJING

Fatal impact: The 6.2 strong earthquake was the country's strongest in the past nine years. AFP

A strong overnight earthquake rattled a mountainous region of northwestern China, authorities said on Tuesday, destroying homes, leaving residents out in a below-freezing winter night and killing 126 people in the nation's deadliest quake in nine years.

The magnitude 6.2 earthquake struck just before midnight on Monday, injuring more than 700 people, damaging roads and knocking out power and communication lines in Gansu and Qinghai provinces, officials and Chinese media reports said.

As emergency workers searched for the missing in collapsed buildings and at least one landslide, people who lost their homes were preparing to spend a cold winter night in tents at evacuation sites.

The earthquake struck at a relatively shallow depth of 10 km in Gansu's Jishishan county.

State broadcaster CCTV said 113 were confirmed dead in Gansu and another 536 injured in the province. Thirteen others were killed and 182 injured in Qinghai, in an area north of the epicenter.

There were nine aftershocks by 10 a.m. – about 10 hours after the initial earthquake – the largest one registering a magnitude of 4.1, the Gansu official said.

The death toll was the highest since an August 2014 quake that killed 617 people in southwest China's Yunnan province. The country's deadliest earthquake in recent years was a 7.9 magnitude quake in 2008 that left nearly 90,000 dead in Sichuan.

Bangladesh protesters set train on fire amid Opposition strike to pressure govt.

Reuters
DHAKA

Protesters in Bangladesh set a train ablaze on Tuesday, killing four persons, among them a mother and child, amid a countrywide strike called by the Opposition to press its demand for the government to resign ahead of next month's general elections.

It was the latest strife sparked by anti-government protests in which dozens of vehicles have been set on fire, with at least six killed since October 28, when an Opposition rally turned violent.

Four persons, among them a mother and child, killed as protesters set fire to three compartments

"Strike supporters set fire to three compartments of an express train," said fire service official Shahjahan Shikder. "Four bodies have been retrieved from a compartment."

Among the dead were a 32-year-old woman and her son, aged three.

It was not immediately clear how many were aboard the train, headed for the capital of Dhaka from the northern district of Netrokona, when passengers saw the flames a short distance from its destination, the police said.

"Apart from setting fire to trains, parts of the railway line are being removed at several places," Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan said. He promised to deploy 2,700 paramilitary troops within a couple of days to guard against such activities.

With its top leaders either jailed or in the exile, the Opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) wants Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to step down and make way for a neutral government to oversee the January 7 polls that it has boycotted.

U.K., France reiterate Russia's Ukraine war must end in failure as U.S. aid falters

Associated Press
PARIS

Britain and France reiterated their determination on Tuesday that Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine ends in failure, with the U.K. Foreign Minister saying that Ukraine's allies must better leverage their economic might to vastly outmatch Moscow's war machine.

The renewed insistence from U.K. Foreign Secretary David Cameron and French counterpart Catherine Colonna that Russia can't be rewarded for its aggression comes as wartime aid from Ukraine's biggest single military backer – the U.S. – is faltering.

25 to one ratio

Mr. Cameron, speaking after talks with Ms. Colonna in Paris, said that if the economies of Ukraine's Western partners are calculated together, "we outmatch the Russian economy by 25 to one or more."

"What we have to do is make that economic strength and that commitment pay," he said. "If we can, I have no doubt that we can make sure that (Russian President Vladimir) Putin loses and it's essential that he does lose."

Neither Mr. Cameron nor Ms. Colonna announced new aid for Ukraine in their comments to reporters. They took no questions.

In the U.S., assistance for Ukraine has become entangled in domestic politics. U.S. President Joe Biden's push for billions of dollars of replenished wartime aid is being held up in Congress by opposing lawmakers.

The European Union and its 27 member states have sent $91 billion in wartime financial, military, humanitarian and refugee assistance. But they also are wrangling about their next planned lump-sum amount.

Sport

AAI men and Maharashtra women emerge victorious

NATL. BADMINTON

K. Keerthivasan
GUWAHATI

Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Maharashtra pulled off an impressive and identical 3-0 wins over Karnataka and AAI to bag the men's and women's team titles in the 76th Inter-State-Inter-Zonal and 85th Senior National badminton championships here on Tuesday.

While a comfortable victory for AAI men was expected, the abject surrender of its women wasn't.

In the first match of the women's summit clash, Maharashtra's Shruti Mundada was up against Tanya Hemanth.

While Shruti is all placements and angles, Tanya is a counterpuncher and a retrieving machine. After a marathon of one hour and 23 minutes, it was Shruti who emerged a 23-21, 23-25, 21-18 winner.

Mansi Singh, ranked No. 4 in India, was expected to put it across Aalisha Naik of Maharashtra, ranked 18. But Aalisha turned the tables to win in 46 minutes. With a 2-0 lead, it was left to the AAI's doubles pair of Tanya and Priya Konjengbam to provide some sort of a fight.

The Maharashtra pair of Simran Singhi and Ritika Thaker proved to be stronger as it won the match and tie in straight games.

As expected, AAI proved much stronger than Karnataka in the men's category. First, M. Tharun was pitted against S. Bhargav. It was anybody's match. Tharun imposed his will in crucial moments to win 21-18, 21-18.

Successful campaigns: AAI men and Maharashtra women played a perfect final game. RITU RAJ KONWAR

The second tie between Meiraba Maisnam and M. Raghu turned out to be a humdinger. Raghu proved equal to Meiraba in most of the rallies.

In the third and final game, Meiraba's limitless energy and ability to work out angles on his jump smashes proved the clincher. There were some anxious moments in the doubles match for AAI.

However, Alap Mishra and P.S. Ravikrishna didn't succumb to pressure, unlike their semifinal match against Railways, to outwit Prakash Raj and Ashith Surya in three tough games to clinch the third match.

This was the first time after a break that the team championships had a separate section for men and women in the Nationals. For a while (till the previous edition in Pune), the mixed team event held sway.

As a result, seedings for teams weren't given this time. The individual events will begin on December 20, Wednesday.

The results (finals):

Men's: AAI bt Karnataka 3-0 (M. Tharun bt S. Bhargav 21-18, 21-18; Meiraba Maisnam bt M. Raghu 22-20, 16-21, 21-11; Alap Mishra & P.S. Ravikrishna bt Prakash Raj & Ashith Surya 21-11, 16-21, 21-19).

Women's: Maharashtra bt AAI 3-0 (Shruti Mundada bt Tanya Hemanth 23-21, 23-25, 21-18; Aalisha Naik bt Mansi Singh 21-18, 12-21, 21-19; Simran Singhi & Ritika Thaker bt Tanya & Priya Konjengbam 21-14, 21-18).

Natasha, Aanya ease into sub-junior final

SNOOKER

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Karnataka's Natasha Chethan and Gujarat's Aanya Patel posted easy wins in their respective semifinal clashes of the sub-junior girls' snooker category at the 90th National Billiards & Snooker Championships here on Tuesday.

Teenager Natasha beat Punjab's Jiya Sehgal 2-0, while Aanya put it past Sanvi Shah (MP) by an identical margin. Aanya has also advanced to the semifinals in the junior girls' billiards category.

Aanya Patel.

The results: Girls: Snooker:

Sub-junior: Semifinals: Natasha Chethan (Kar) bt Jiya Sehgal (Pun) 2-0 (65-31, 54-53); Aanya Patel (Guj) bt Sanvi Shah (MP) 2-0 (36-11, 44-31).

Billiards: Junior: Quarterfinals: Snenthra Babu (TN) bt Jiya Sehgal (Pun) 102-97; L. Shruthi (TN) bt Sreenidhi Anbarasan (TN) 180-93; Aanya Patel (Guj) bt Sanvi Shah (MP) 147-92; R.T. Mohita (TN) bt Anita Bijju (Ker) 135-91.

PAR FOR THE COURSE

It was a shock, price tag will bring some pressure: Mitchell Starc

AFP

Australian pacer Mitchell Starc on Tuesday said he did not even dream of getting sold for ₹24.75 crore in the IPL auction. "It was a shock, of course. Nothing I could have dreamt of. But no doubt, there will be some pressure that comes with the territory. But having the extra experience I have from my last IPL, hopefully, helps."

EXCITED

Pumped to be joining SRH for the upcoming IPL: Cummins

AFP

Australian skipper Pat Cummins expressed his excitement after being bought by Sunrisers Hyderabad for ₹20.50 crore. "Pumped to be joining SRH for the upcoming IPL. I have heard a lot about the Orange Army. We are going to have a lot of fun this season and hopefully a lot of success," said Cummins.

TOP UNCAPPED PLAYER

Super Kings add explosive UP batter Rizvi to their roster

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Chennai Super Kings signed Uttar Pradesh batter Sameer Rizvi for ₹8.4 crore, the costliest uncapped player in Tuesday's auction. In the UP T20 League, he scored 455 runs in nine innings, including two hundreds, for Kanpur Superstars. He also shone in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy and the men's under-23 State A tournament.

BIG BUY

Pacer Spencer Johnson goes to Capitals for a whopping sum

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Australia pacer Spencer Johnson was signed by Delhi Capitals for a whopping ₹10 crore. The 28-year-old broke into the scene with mind-boggling numbers of 20-19-1-3 for Oval Invincibles in The Hundred 2023. Johnson made his T20I debut during Australia's tour of South Africa and also featured in one ODI game against India.

Aussie flavour rules as Starc, Cummins break 20cr barrier

KKR's ₹24.75 crore bid for the left-arm pacer makes him the highest paid player in the IPL, trumps SRH's bid of ₹20.50 crore for the Australia captain; PBKS ropes in Harshal (₹11.75 crore), the most expensive Indian buy of the 2024 auction

The 2024 IPL dug-outs

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS

M.S. Dhoni, Ravindra Jadeja, Devon Conway, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Ajinkya Rahane, Shaik Rasheed, Mitchell Santner, Moeen Ali, Shivam Dube, Nishant Sindhu, Ajay Mandal, Rajvardhan Hangargekar, Deepak Chahar, Maheesh Theekshana, Mukesh Chowdhary, Prashant Solanki, Simarjeet Singh, Tushar Deshpande, Matheesha Pathirana

2024 auction picks
Daryl Mitchell, Sameer Rizvi, Shardul Thakur, Mustafizur Rahman, Rachin Ravindra, Avanish Rao

DELHI CAPITALS

Rishabh Pant, David Warner, Prithvi Shaw, Yash Dhull, Abishek Porel, Axar Patel, Lalit Yadav, Mitchell Marsh, Pravin Dubey, Vicky Ostwal, Anrich Nortje, Kuldeep Yadav, Lungi Ngidi, Khaleel Ahmed, Ishant Sharma, Mukesh Kumar

2024 auction picks
Kumar Kushagra, Jhye Richardson, Harry Brook, Sumit Kumar, Shai Hope, Tristan Stubbs, Rasikh Dar, Ricky Bhui, Swastik Chhikara

GUJARAT TITANS

Shubman Gill, David Miller, Matthew Wade, Wriddhiman Saha, Kane Williamson, Abhinav Manohar, Sai Sudharsan, Darshan Nalkande, Vijay Shankar, Jayant Yadav, Rahul Tewatia, Mohammed Shami, Noor Ahmad, Sai Kishore, Rashid Khan, Josh Little, Mohit Sharma

2024 auction picks
Spencer Johnson, Shahrukh Khan, Umesh Yadav, Robin Minz, Sushant Mishra, Kartik Tyagi, Azmatullah Omarzai, Manav Suthar

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS

Shreyas Iyer, Nitish Rana, Rinku Singh, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Jason Roy, Anukul Roy, Andre Russell, Venkatesh Iyer, Suyash Sharma, Harshit Rana, Sunil Narine, Vaibhav Arora, Varun Chakravarthy

2024 auction picks
Mitchell Starc, Mujeeb Rahman, Sherfane Rutherford, Gus Atkinson, Chetan Sakariya, K.S. Bharat, Manish Pandey, Angkrish Raghuvanshi, Ramandeep Singh, Sakib Hussain

LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS

K.L. Rahul, Quinton de Kock, Nicholas Pooran, Ayush Badoni, Deepak Hooda, K. Gowtham, Krunal Pandya, Kyle Mayers, Marcus Stoinis, Prerak Mankad, Yudhvir Singh, Mark Wood, Mayank Yadav, Mohsin Khan, Ravi Bishnoi, Yash Thakur, Amit Mishra, Naveen-ul-Haq, Devdutt Padikkal

2024 auction picks
Shivam Mavi, M. Siddharth, David Willey, Ashton Turner, Arshin Kulkarni, Arshad Khan

MUMBAI INDIANS

Hardik Pandya, Rohit Sharma, Dewald Brevis, Suryakumar Yadav, Ishan Kishan, Tilak Varma, Tim David, Vishnu Vinod, Arjun Tendulkar, Shams Mulani, Nehal Wadhera, Jasprit Bumrah, Kumar Kartikeya, Piyush Chawla, Akash Madhwal, Jason Behrendorff, Romario Shepherd

2024 auction picks
Gerald Coetzee, Nuwan Thushara, Dilshan Madushanka, Mohammad Nabi, Anshul Kamboj, Naman Dhir, Shreyas Gopal, Shivalik Sharma

PUNJAB KINGS

Shikhar Dhawan, Jitesh Sharma, Jonny Bairstow, Prabhsimran Singh, Liam Livingstone, Atharva Taide, Rishi Dhawan, Sam Curran, Sikandar Raza, Shivam Singh, Harpreet Brar, Arshdeep Singh, Kagiso Rabada, Nathan Ellis, Rahul Chahar, Vidwath Kaverappa, Harpreet Bhatia

2024 auction picks
Harshal Patel, Rilee Rossouw, Chris Woakes, Ashutosh Sharma, Prince Choudhary, Shashank Singh, Tanay Thyagarajan, Vishwanath Pratap Singh

RAJASTHAN ROYALS

Sanju Samson, Jos Buttler, Shimron Hetmyer, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Dhruv Jurel, Riyan Parag, Donovan Ferreira, Kunal Rathore, R. Ashwin, Kuldeep Sen, Navdeep Saini, Sandeep Sharma, Trent Boult, Yuzvendra Chahal, Adam Zampa, Prasidh Krishna, Avesh Khan

2024 auction picks
Rovman Powell, Shubham Dubey, Nandre Burger, Tom Kohler-Cadmore, Abid Mushtaq

ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE

Faf du Plessis, Virat Kohli, Rajat Patidar, Anuj Rawat, Dinesh Karthik, Suyash Prabhudessai, Will Jacks, Glenn Maxwell, Mahipal Lomror, Karn Sharma, Manoj Bhandage, Akash Deep, Mohammed Siraj, Reece Topley, Himanshu Sharma, Rajan Kumar, Vyshak Vijaykumar, Mayank Dagar, Cameron Green

2024 auction picks
Alzarri Joseph, Yash Dayal, Lockie Ferguson, Tom Curran, Saurav Chauhan, Swapnil Singh

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD

Aiden Markram, Abdul Samad, Rahul Tripathi, Glenn Phillips, Mayank Agarwal, Heinrich Klaasen, Anmolpreet Singh, Upendra Yadav, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Abhishek Sharma, Marco Jansen, Washington Sundar, Sanvir Singh, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Fazalhaq Farooqi, T. Natarajan, Umran Malik, Mayank Markande, Shahbaz Ahmed

2024 auction picks
Pat Cummins, Travis Head, Jaydev Unadkat, Wanindu Hasaranga, Akash Singh, Jhathavedh Subramanyan

IPL AUCTION

Amol Karhadkar
DUBAI

Not once in the previous 16 Indian Premier League (IPL) player auctions had a bid breached the ₹20 crore mark. In fact, the auction purse for each team at the start of the IPL in 2008 was ₹20 crore.

On Tuesday, the barrier was broken, not just once but twice. Australia's World Cup-winning pace duo of Mitchell Starc and captain Pat Cummins shattered all records, emerging as the biggest beneficiaries.

While Cummins became the first to overhaul the ₹20 crore barrier, when the Sunrisers Hyderabad outbid the Royal Challengers Bangalore to sign Cummins for a whopping ₹20.50 crore.

Minutes later, in a face-off between Kolkata Knight Riders and Gujarat Titans, Starc emerged as the most expensive player ever in IPL with KKR bagging him for a massive ₹24.75 crore.

When the bidding for Starc – slotted in the fourth set of the auction at the Coca Cola Arena here – began, both KKR and GT had more than ₹31 crore in their kitty. It was a given that the franchises will loosen their purse to have the prized catch.

Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals started the bidding war before handing it over to the two key contenders around the ₹10 crore mark. Then on, the next eight minutes saw mayhem and a plethora of oohs and aahs from the audience – the first such instance of a live audience at an IPL auction – before KKR had the last laugh.

Chennai Super Kings signed New Zealand sensation Daryl Mitchell for ₹14 crore. The defending champion also had another Kiwi addition to its roster in promising all-rounder Rachin Ravindra (₹1.80 crore).

Mumbai Indians benefitted from Gerald Coetzee's (₹5 crore) name cropping up before Starc and Cummins as it added the young South African to its squad for a reasonable price. It also enabled them to go for another overseas pacer in Sri Lanka's Dilshan Madushanka (₹4.60 crore) despite entering the auction with a limited purse.

Besides Cummins, Sunrisers also added Australia's on-song opener Travis Head (₹6.80 crore) while Rajasthan Royals spent more than half of its auction purse on West Indies' power-hitter Rovman Powell (₹7.40 crore) who was the first player to be offered by auctioneer Mallika Sagar.

Among Indian cricketers, Harshal Patel (₹11.75 crore) emerged as the most expensive signing, with Punjab Kings welcoming the effective death bowler with open arms.

It wasn't just the international stars that benefited from the Moneyball. More than a dozen domestic cricketers joined the crorepati club, with Sameer Rizvi (₹8.40 crore), a young big-hitter from Uttar Pradesh, leading the pack.

Chennai Super Kings got hold of Rizvi after a fierce bidding war that also involved GT and Delhi Capitals. Kumar Kushagra (₹7.20 crore), the Jharkhand wicketkeeper-batter, went to Capitals while Tamil Nadu's Shahrukh Khan (₹7.40 crore) did not lose out on too much money despite being released by Punjab Kings ahead of the auction. The Kings' bid for price correction backfired on it as it lost the game of paddles to Gujarat Titans, with Titans walking away with the burly hitter.

Boucher scotches rumours of dissent in MI ranks

Amol Karhadkar
DUBAI

Mark Boucher, the Mumbai Indians head coach, has put to rest all the conspiracy theories about dissent within the Mumbai Indians camp after Hardik Pandya's appointment as captain for the forthcoming IPL edition.

Addressing a media interaction during the IPL Player Auction, Boucher stressed that the coaching staff has had detailed conversations about the leadership transition from Rohit Sharma to Hardik, who was traded from Gujarat Titans ahead of the auction.

"We have had conversations with certain team members and the leadership within the group. I think it's purely just a transition phase. It's the game of cricket. Mumbai Indians moves on forward," Boucher said.

"Rohit has been fantastic for us. He has been a stalwart for Mumbai Indians, he has done really well. This is just a decision that is made by us to move forward and get into a transition phase with the new captain and it's, you know, take all the motions aside and all that type of stuff. That's simply what it is all about."

Ever since Hardik was formally announced as the captain last week, social media has been abuzz with theories related to dissent within senior MI players. When asked specifically about whether there was any dissent about it, Boucher said the transition has been handled in "the best way possible".

"Can I say anything about it? I am not too sure. I mean, I have heard rumours via social media, all that type of stuff, but I'm not really into social media stuff," Boucher said.

"As far as I can tell, it was handled by us in the best way possible. We understand the emotions around everything, but this is purely a transitional phase for Mumbai Indians. And decisions were made by us to move forward and that's where we are at the moment."

Tuesday's Buys

CSK	PRICE
Daryl Mitchell	**14 Cr**
Sameer Rizvi	8.40 Cr
Shardul Thakur	4 Cr
Mustafizur Rahman	2 Cr
Rachin Ravindra	1.80 Cr
Avanish Rao	20 L

DC	PRICE
Kushagra	**7.20 Cr**
Jhye Richardson	5 Cr
Harry Brook	4 Cr
Sumit Kumar	1 Cr
Shai Hope	75 L
Tristan Stubbs	50 L
Ricky Bhui	20 L
Rasik Dhar	20 L
Swastik Chikara	20 L

GT	PRICE
Spencer Johnson	**10 Cr**
Shahrukh Khan	7.40 Cr
Umesh Yadav	5.80 Cr
Robin Minz	3.6 Cr
Sushant Mishra	2.20 Cr
Kartik Tyagi	60 L
Omarzai	50 L
Manav Suthar	20 L

KKR	PRICE
Mitchell Starc	**24.75 Cr**
Mujeeb Rahman	2 Cr
Rutherford	1.50 Cr
Gus Atkinson	1 Cr
K.S. Bharat	50 L
Manish Pandey	50 L
Chetan Sakariya	50 L
Ramandeep Singh	20 L
Raghuvanshi	20 L
Sakib Hussain	20 L

LSG	PRICE
Shivam Mavi	**6.40 Cr**
Siddharth	2.40 Cr
David Willey	2 Cr
Ashton Turner	1 Cr
Arshin Kulkarni	20 L
Arshad Khan	20 L

MI	PRICE
Coetzee	**5 Cr**
Nuwan Thushara	4.80 Cr
Madhushanka	4.60 Cr
Mohammad Nabi	1.50 Cr
Anshul Khamboj	20 L
Naman Dhir	20 L
Shivalik Sharma	20 L
Shreyas Gopal	20 L

PBKS	PRICE
Harshal Patel	**11.75 Cr**
Rilee Rossouw	8 Cr
Chris Woakes	4.20 Cr
Ashutosh Sharma	20 L
Vishwanath Singh	20 L
Shashank Singh	20 L
Tanay Thyagarajan	20 L
Prince Choudhary	20 L

RR	PRICE
Rovman Powell	**7.40 Cr**
Subham Dubey	5.80 Cr
Nandre Burger	50 L
Kohler-Cadmore	40 L
Abid Mushtaq	20 L

RCB	PRICE
Alzarri Joseph	**11.50 Cr**
Yash Dayal	5 Cr
Tom Curran	1.50 Cr
Lockie Ferguson	2 Cr
Swapnil Singh	20 L
Sourav Chauhan	20 L

SRH	PRICE
Pat Cummins	**20.50 Cr**
Travis Head	6.80 Cr
Jaydev Unadkat	1.60 Cr
Hasaranga	1.50Cr
Akash Singh	20 L
Jhathavedh	20 L

De Zorzi's century powers South Africa to big win, takes series to decider

INDIA IN SA

Reuters
GQEBERHA

Left-handed opener Tony de Zorzi scored a career-best unbeaten 119 from 122 balls to lead South Africa to an emphatic eight-wicket win over India in the second ODI at St. George's Park on Tuesday and level the three-match series 1-1.

South Africa won the toss and sent India into bat, restricting the visitor to 211 all out in 46.2 overs on a wicket that was not easy to bat on.

The Proteas chased down their target with 45 deliveries remaining to set up a series decider in Paarl on Thursday.

De Zorzi, 26, playing in his fourth ODI and a replacement for Quinton de Kock at the top of the order, started cautiously before taking the attack to the tourist as he put on 130 for the first wicket with Reeza Hendricks, who scored a more sedate 52 from 81 balls.

The rate accelerated in a second wicket stand of 76 with Rassie van der Dussen as India's bowling attack failed to apply the same pressure with the ball as its hosts.

K.L. Rahul's men looked set for a competitive total in Gqeberha when it reached 114 for two, but lost its last eight wickets for 97 runs. Seamer Nandre Burger took three for 30, with Beuran Hendricks two for 34, in the side for the injured all-rounder Andile Phehlukwayo, also among the wickets in his first ODI since April 2021.

India opening batter Sai Sudharsan followed up his unbeaten half-century on debut with a fluent 62 from 83 balls, while captain Rahul scored 56 from 64 balls.

A day to cherish: De Zorzi was in full flow as he guided South Africa to an eight-wicket win. AFP

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Ruturaj Gaikwad lbw b Burger 4 *(2b, 1x4)*, Sai Sudharsan c Klaasen b Williams 62 *(83b, 7x4, 1x6)*, Tilak Varma c Beuran b Burger 10 *(30b)*, K.L. Rahul c Miller b Burger 56 *(64b, 7x4)*, Sanju Samson b Beuran 12 *(23b, 1x4)*, Rinku Singh st. Klaasen b Maharaj 17 *(14b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Axar Patel c sub (Verreynne) b Markram 7 *(23b)*, Kuldeep Yadav c Beuran b Maharaj 1 *(5b)*, Arshdeep Singh c Miller b Beuran 18 *(17b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Avesh Khan run out 9 *(9b, 1x6)*, Mukesh Kumar (not out) 4 *(9b, 1x4)*; Extras (w-10, nb-1): 11; Total (in 46.2 overs): 211.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-4 (Ruturaj, 0.2 overs), 2-46 (Tilak, 11.1), 3-114 (Sudharsan, 26.2), 4-136 (Samson, 31.6), 5-167 (Rahul, 35.4), 6-169 (Rinku, 36.4), 7-172 (Kuldeep, 38.4), 8-186 (Axar, 42.4), 9-204 (Arshdeep, 44.3).

SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING

Burger 10-0-30-3, Williams 9-1-49-1, Beuran 9.2-1-34-2, Mulder 4-0-19-0, Maharaj 10-0-51-2, Markram 4-0-28-1.

SOUTH AFRICA

Reeza Hendricks c Mukesh b Arshdeep 52 *(81b, 7x4)*, Tony de Zorzi (not out) 119 *(122b, 9x4, 6x6)*, Rassie van der Dussen c Samson b Rinku 36 *(51b, 5x4)*, Aiden Markram (not out) 2 *(2b)*; Extras (w-5, nb-1): 6; Total (for two wkts. in 42.3 overs): 215.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-130 (Hendricks, 27.5), 2-206 (van der Dussen, 41.3).

INDIA BOWLING

Mukesh 8-2-46-0, Arshdeep 8-0-28-1, Avesh 8-0-43-0, Axar 6-0-22-0, Kuldeep 8-0-48-0, Tilak 3-0-18-0, Rinku 1-0-2-1, Sai Sudharsan 0.3-0-8-0.

Toss: South Africa.

PoM: de Zorzi.

South Africa won by eight wickets with 45 balls to spare to level series 1-1.

Third & final ODI:

Dec. 21, Paarl, 4.30 p.m. IST.

Anish.

Anish and Swapnil reign

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Anish Bhanwala was in fine form as he defeated Gurmeet Singh 31-25 to top the 25m rapid fire pistol event in the National shooting selection trials on Tuesday.

In women's air rifle, Ramita Jindal topped the final with 252.5, while in men's 50m rifle 3-position event, Olympic quota winner Swapnil Kusale outclassed the field in the final with 463.0.

The results:
Men: 25m rapid fire pistol: 1. Anish Bhanwala 31 (588); 2. Gurmeet Singh 25 (579); 3. Ankur Goel 21 (585).
50m rifle 3-position: 1. Swapnil Kusale 463.0 (593); 2. Nikhil Tanwar 459.5 (585); 3. Niraj Kumar 450.5 (588).
Women: 10m air rifle: 1. Ramita Jindal 252.5 (630.4); 2. Nancy 252.0 (634.9); 3. Swarnali Roy 229.6 (630.7).

A slick show gives Petroleum men a record-extending 27th title

Full-strength Reserve Bank of India cashes in again at Tamil Nadu's expense in the women's summit clash

TT NATIONALS

Rakesh Rao
PANCHKULA

As widely anticipated, Petroleum went through the motions of winning the team title in the National table tennis championship for a record-extending 27th time and Reserve Bank of India women came up with their first successful title-defence.

Petroleum, without the services of ace Sharath Kamal, chose to rest spearhead Harmeet Desai in the final. Defending singles champion G. Sathiyan, who arrived here on Monday evening, was fielded for the third singles while the struggling duo of A. Amalraj and Manav Thakkar were to play two singles each, if needed.

Champions again: The Petroleum men and Reserve Bank of India women, and their coaches, proudly pose with their reward after retaining the team titles. RAKESH RAO

Strongest trio

Like in Jammu, in the previous edition, RBI paraded its strongest trio of defending singles winner Sreeja Akula, Ayhika Mukherjee and an not-so-fully-fit Diya Chitale against Tamil Nadu.

If the TN girls Yashini Sivashankar, Kavyashree Baskar and Selenadeepthi Selvakumar were hoping to avenge the 2-3 defeat suffered at Jammu, RBI served a rude shock.

The identical 3-0 margins for the winners' came without the members of these champion teams being required to play their best. This highlighted the gulf that exists between some institutional teams and those from States.

Bouncing back

A rusty Amalraj, a former National champion, dropped the opening game to much-younger Payas Jain but bounced back to force a match-point in the fourth game. The Delhi youngster won four points on the trot to force the decider, where Amalraj just about managed to come out stronger.

Manav, having lost twice on way to this final, played better against a fighting Sudhanshu Grover to win in four games. Sathiyan took time to get the feel of the conditions against rising-talent Shubh Goel and swiftly closed out the final with a 11-2 scoreline in the third game.

In the women's final, Arjuna Award-elect Ayhika saved two match-points – one each in the third and fifth games – against an inconsistent Yashini to come out stronger. Sreeja expectedly tamed Kavyashree to double RBI's lead.

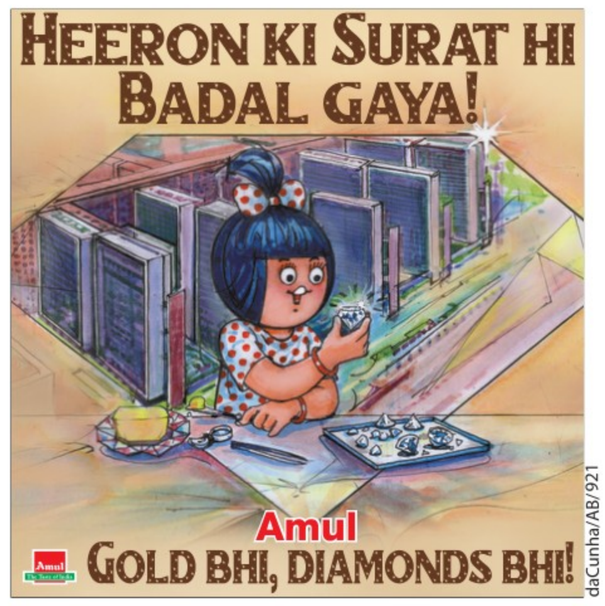
Finishing touches

It was left to an injured Diya to put the finishing touches against Selena. In spite of looking far from normal in her movements, Diya outplayed Selena in the second and third games to move ahead. Selena struck right back to force the decider.

Here, Selena had match-points at 10-9, 12-11 and 13-12 and faced one at 10-11. But all credit to Diya for playing the big points better and eventually shutting out the contest by racing away with the last three points.

The results (final): Men: Petroleum bt Delhi 3-0 (A. Amalraj bt Payas Jain 9-11, 13-11, 11-9, 11-13, 11-9; Manav Thakkar bt Sudhanshu Grover 11-9, 11-8, 5-11, 11-9; G. Sathiyan bt Shubh Goel 11-6, 11-9, 11-2).

Women: Reserve Bank of India bt Tamil Nadu 3-0 (Ayhika Mukherjee bt Yashini Sivashankar 12-14, 3-11, 13-11, 11-6, 13-11; Sreeja Akula bt Kavyashree Baskar 11-3, 11-8, 11-5; Diya Chitale bt Selenadeepthi Selvakumar 6-11, 11-5, 11-7, 8-11, 15-13).



BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Mahith and Harshvardhan's tons highlight St. Francis' massive win

Centuries from Mahith Bandi (128) and Harshvardhan Nishikanth (111) helped St. Francis School, ICSE beat Little Flower Public School by a thumping 227-run margin in the KSCA BTR Shield (Group I), under-14 first division tournament.

The scores: St. Paul's English School 100 in 21.3 overs (Ashith Kumar Gowda 45, Bhuvan Ravi 3/18, N. Bhuvan Tejas 3/3) lost to Triveni Memorial Educational Trust 102/8 in 24.2 overs (Lagan Gangaiah Gowda 40, Saatvik Sanikop 3/18, P. Hiranmayi 3/46).
St. Joseph's Indian Primary School 65 in 30.1 overs (Sanjeev Panguluri 3/20, Kaushal Sandeep Raje 3/18) lost to Vibgyor High, Marathahalli 69/3 in 8.1 overs (Aditya Vinayak Mehetre 30 n.o.).
St. Francis School, ICSE 329/5 in 50 overs (Mahith Bandi 128, Harshvardhan Nishikanth 111, Vaibhav Shetty 32 n.o.) bt Little Flower Public School 102 in 37.5 overs (Vignesh Subhramaniyan 4/27).
Jain IRS 259/9 in 50 overs (Shivansh Singh 79, Rahil H. Bhalodia 62, Veerkumar 36, Saharsh R. Shetty 5/15) bt Presidency School, Nandini Layout 127 in 31.2 overs (M.J. Chuvanraj 31, Swarup Jayannthilal Jain 3/17).
Sri RV School, Kolar 65 in 24.5 overs (M. Shamanth Gowda 26, R. Dheeraj Kumar Yadav 3/14, G. Harry Mithun 4/29) lost to St. Joseph's IHS 66/2 in 9.4 overs (Vignesh 44 n.o.).
Clarence Public School 192 in 37 overs (S. Tanav 53, S. Pranav 26, Aashish Patwari 3/35) bt Presidency School, North 144 in 34 overs (Vehan Prabhakar 37, Sujan Shankara 3/29, Mohammed Raiyan 3/17).

Diptayan makes the winning moves

Grandmaster Diptayan Ghosh won the Bullet Bash online chess tournament conducted recently by Bengaluru-based start-up CircleChess.

Diptayan secured top place at the ₹1 lakh prize-money tournament by a narrow one-point advantage over Indonesian IM Yoseph Taher. Russian FM Tsoi Dmitry was third.

The Indian top seed Raunak Sadhwani had to be content with fourth spot, while GM Mitrabha Guha finished fifth.

Avyam shines for Young Orion's SC

Avyam scored 20 points as Young Orion's SC defeated MCHS 51-41 in a boys' category super league match at the State Invitational sub-junior (U-13) basketball championship here on Tuesday.

The results (super league):
Boys: MNK Rao Park BC 68 (Ujwal 16, Vashist 14) bt HBR BC 39 (Shubh 14); Yelahanka New Town BC 41 (Chathura 12) bt Beagles BC 23 (Sourav 11); Young Orion's SC 51 (Avyam 20) bt MCHS 41 (Asher 16); Vimanapura SC 49 (Shreyas 13, Pranit 10) bt S. Blues 42 (Raghav 19).
Girls: Young Orion's SC 34 bt All Star Academy Mysore 33; Appaiah BC 34 (Linisha 18) bt Beagles BC 26 (Poorvi 16); PPC 42 (Mahek 20) bt Nationals BC Mysore 20 (Risha 12); Vimanapura SC 35 (Samskritha 16) bt MCHS 12.

Oracle reigns in TAL Corporate football tournament

Oracle won the TAL Corporate football tournament here recently. D Boys finished runner-up. In the Women's 7s tournament, Kemp FC emerged champion while Prakrida came second. In the 3x3 basketball league, Baller Nation was first with Swish Squad settling for second spot.

Gokulam too good for Sreenidi

Sports Bureau
HYDERABAD

Gokulam Kerala scored an emphatic 4-1 win over Sreenidi Deccan FC in the I-League at the Deccan Arena on Tuesday. The Kerala outfit struck thrice in the first half to put the issue beyond the home team.

Gokulam, which shot into the lead in the ninth minute through Spanish striker Nili Perdomo, doubled its lead through captain Alex Sanchez. Soon, Sreenidi suffered another jolt when V.S. Sreekuttan was on target with a solo effort.

In the second-half, Sanchez took advantage of a miscommunication between Albino Gomes and defender Sajid Dhot and pushed the ball into an empty net in the 52nd.

Sreenidi's substitute William Alves was brought down in the penalty box in the 75th and he converted the resulting spot kick.

The result: Gokulam Kerala 3 (Perdomo 9, Sanchez 39, 52, Sreekuttan 45) bt Sreenidi Deccan 1 (Alves 75-pen).

Hardik and Savita win accolades at FIH annual awards

Hardik. FILE PHOTO

Savita. FILE PHOTO

HOCKEY

Press Trust of India
LAUSANNE

Indian men's hockey team midfielder Hardik Singh and women's side captain Savita on Tuesday won the FIH Player of the Year and Goalkeeper of the Year (women) awards respectively.

The awards were declared following a vote by an expert panel, National Associations – represented by their respective national teams' captains and coaches, fans and media.

With 114 caps to his name, Hardik is the next big thing in Indian hockey. He was a vital cog in India's bronze-medal win at the 2020 Olympics.

This is Hardik's second big award this year after the Hockey India Balbir Singh Sr Award for Player of the Year 2022.

As for Savita, this is her third consecutive FIH Women's Goalkeeper of the Year award, having won the recognition in 2021 and 2022.

Sportsmen have a platform — some use it well, others waste it

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

Here are two statements. "All lives are equal", and "Freedom is a human right". Unexceptional, you might think. If a sportsman wore shoes with these slogans, the most you could accuse him of might be labouring the obvious.

But Australian batter Usman Khawaja was asked not to do so by the International Cricket Council ahead of the Test against Pakistan. The ICC thought it was a political statement and pointed out that personal messages are not allowed on equipment.

Khawaja has said he will try to convince the ICC, and he might yet wear the slogans on his shoes in later Tests. The Australian captain and players have been supportive.

Of the many questions this gives rise to, the most obvious is: can anyone seriously believe that all lives are not equal, or that freedom is not a human right? Personal messages these might be, perhaps even political ones pointing to the carnage in Gaza (although that is a connection not stated, only implied), but it is difficult to fault Khawaja's argument that these are humanitarian messages. Equally, it is possible that one man's humanitarian message is another man's political. It depends on which side of the fence you are standing on.

You can see the ICC's point of view, of course. It can't allow one player to wear a slogan that is acceptable and unexceptional while disallowing another from wearing the opposite. Where do you draw the line?

Obligation

The larger question here is: What is a sportsman's obligation towards the world around him? Sportsmen have a platform denied to other professionals, but with that power must come responsibility. And an awareness of the world.

If international sport is the highest form of physical endeavour, a sportsman's mental attitude must reflect the best humanity has to offer. Both these might come under the heading of wishful thinking or unattainable goals, but if we don't admit this, at least theoretically, terms like 'sport' or 'humanism' have no meaning.

Organisations like the Unicef make use of a player's platform to spread their message (as do advertisers, but that need not detain us here), so why should a sportsman be denied a chance to speak up for the larger humanity?

In recent years, teams have worn 'Black Lives Matter' logos on their shirts, while even India – with problems of their own back home – have taken the knee ahead of an international.

The ICC did not disallow these personal/political messages and acts, calculating correctly that they were in the larger good. And they reflected well on the governing body.

International sportsmen tend to live in a bubble, often for self-preservation, keeping silent because they lack the background to have an opinion on world events.

Most of the world is happy with this arrangement – and reacts sharply when sportspersons break the bubble and let the real world seep into their lives. Bowlers can tell us about putting the ball in the right places, and batters about the state of the pitch. That's all.

Aligning with the issues

Sport is an artificial construct, but sportsmanship is not. Increasingly, players from England and Australia are aligning themselves with movements dealing with the issues of the day.

Pat Cummins was recently named Athlete of the Year in BBC's Green Sport Awards. His Cricket for Climate Foundation aims to make cricket in Australia carbon neutral.

After the World Cup in India, the England players' union asked for cricket to adopt a more proactive response to the climate crisis.

One suggestion was that teams should refuse to play at venues where the AQI (air quality index) endangers their health. Another was to have only day/night Tests in response to rising global temperatures.

India's superstars are not known for taking a stand on global or national issues, which is a pity. Traditionally they support whoever is in power. None of them is likely to go into an international with 'Freedom is a human right' written between advertising logos on themselves.

In a country of a billion and a half, you can't make a statement without millions finding fault with it. Social media trolls are a menace, so players keep out of their way. And the platform goes waste.

Khawaja might not convince the ICC, but he has made a point.

INBRIEF

Gukesh emerges sole leader with second-straight win

D. Gukesh won with black against Hungary's Sanan Sjugirov in the fifth round and emerged the sole leader of the Chennai Grand Masters chess championship with 3.5 points in Chennai on Tuesday. After the win, Gukesh discussed his game: "I thought his (Sjugirov's) opening was a bit timid, actually. I didn't think he played the most critical way. So, I was looking for more than equality already. "And he was taking a lot of time. I had a huge time advantage. So, I wanted to make the most out of it." Gukesh also praised compatriot Arjun Erigaisi for his game against USA's Levon Aronian. Playing with white, Arjun was in a promising position, yet he could only manage to eventually draw.

The results (fifth round): Sanan Sjugirov (Hun, 2) lost to D. Gukesh (3.5); P. Harikrishna (3) drew with Parham Maghsoodloo (Irn, 2.5); Arjun Erigaisi (2.5) drew with Levon Aronian (USA, 2.5); Alexandr Predke (Srb, 1) lost to Pavel Eljanov (Ukr, 3).

Bombers HC steamrollers Dharwad's Om Sai HC 8-1

Bombers HC thrashed Om Sai HC, Dharwad 8-1 in the KSHA-BHA A-division hockey league in Bengaluru on Tuesday. In another encounter, Bangalore United HC bt Hassan DCA 2-1.

Steelers beat Giants in tight contest, register fourth win

Haryana Steelers' all-around display powered it to a 31-29 victory over Gujarat Giants, for its fourth straight win, in a Pro Kabaddi League Season 10 match at the Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex in Pune on Tuesday.

Indian men lose to Germany in five-nation hockey

The Indian men's hockey team's woeful run in the five-nation tournament continued as it lost 3-2 to Germany to slump to its third consecutive defeat in Valencia, Spain, on Tuesday.

The result: Germany 3 (Malte Hellwig 28, Christopher Ruhr 50, Gonzalo Peillat 51) bt India 2 (Abhishek 9, Shamsher Singh 14).

Rajasthan women post a five-wkt. win over Karnataka

Niki Prasad's 84 went in vain as Karnataka lost to Rajasthan by five wickets in the BCCI under-23 women's T20 Trophy in Raipur.

The scores: Karnataka 146/7 in 20 overs (Niki Prasad 84, Mithila Vinod 26, Shanu 4/21) lost to Rajasthan 149/5 in 19.3 overs (D.R. Kanwar 62, A.D. Garg 33, J.D. Choudhary 30 n.o.).

Sportscast India's YT channel to telecast I-League 3 playoffs

Sportscast India will be the official broadcast partner for the I-League 3 playoffs that will be held in Goa from December 22. All matches will be live on Sportscast India's official YouTube channel.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 8.30 a.m.
ISL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 8 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m. onwards.
La Liga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 11.30 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 1 a.m. (Thursday).